Ottoman Gallantries:

OR THE

LIFE

OF THE

BASSA

OF

BUDA.

Done out of *French.*

LONDON:

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To the Honourable, WILLIAM, *Lord* CAVENDISH.

My Lord,

I Should not *know* how to *Apologize* for the *Preſumption* of this *Addreſs*, if the *Introduction* of a *Forreigner* did not in ſome wiſe *plead* in my *Excuſe*. His *Priviledges*, as *ſuch*, in a *great* manner *entituling him* to *your Lordſhip*'s Protection, I reſolv'd, at the ſame time I *implor'd* his *Admittance*, to *improve* the *Occaſion*, as well for the *diſcharging ſome awful ſenſe* of *Gratitude*, for the *Obligations* I have to your *Illuſtrious Father*, as for the *paying* your *Lordſhip* that *Homage* that is *owing you* from all *thoſe* that make *Profeſſion* of *publickly honouring Merit* and *Virtue*. Yes, *my Lord*, as the *World* does both *Eſteem* and *Admire* the *raviſhing Excellencies* of your *Perſon*, the *ſurprizing Progreſs* you have *made* in *all* ſorts of *Noble Exerciſes*, that *Blooming Beauty* of

your *Genius*, that *Vivacity* of *Imagination*, *Solidity* of *Judgment*, those *Charms* in *Converſation*, and that *early Harveſt* of *Polite Learning* that ſo ſoon in your *Spring* your *Lordſhip* ſtands *poſſeſs'd* of; as if the *Muſes* had a *Mind* to *make* ſome *Amends* by *ſhedding* all their *Gifts* upon your *Lordſhip*, for the *conſtant* ſupport and *azylum they* have ever *found* in your *illuſtrious Family*: So *it* has a *Reſpect* and *Veneration* for your *Goodneſs*, your *Condeſcention*, *Generoſity*, *Candour*, and *Gallantry*, that *conſpicuouſly* declares the *Nobility* of *your* Extraction. Thus I hope this *Offering* will not only be *interpreted*, as an *Effect* of my *Zeal* and *Admiration*, but as a *Teſtimony* of the *ardent* and *reſpectful Paſſion*, with which I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Obedient,

And moſt Humble Servant,

B. Berenclow.

IBRAHIM:

BASSA

OF

BUDA.

I Am not at all surpriz'd to see that Love occasions many Disorders in Private Families. It ever did so, and ever will: But to find that it is It that has kindled the War we at present see between the *Turks* and the Empire, is a matter very extraordinary, and nevertheless very

true. Eaſie will it be to know this Truth, from the following Hiſtory, which I ſhall faithfully relate from the Memoirs I have received from one of my Friends at *Conſtantinople*, where he has an Employ under a Foreign Miniſter, by whom, as he writes me word, he was inform'd of what I am going to recount.

Count *Teckeley*, that famous Head of the *Male-contents*, that has ſo long born Arms againſt his Maſter, after having (according to the Deſtiny of thoſe that are engag'd in ſuch like Enterpriſes) found that there is nothing more difficult than to ſucceed in their Projects, was ready to ſink, when he reſolv'd to ſend his Secretary, once for all, to the *Grand Signior*, of whom he had already receiv'd divers Succours, but too ſlender to bring his Deſigns about. He expreſly encharg'd him to tell this Prince,

and

and the *Grand Vizier*, that he was oblig'd to come to an Accomodation with the Emperour, unless they assisted him better than they had hitherto done. That all his Partizans were weary of the War they had made for so long a time, and for the most part at their own cost. That he could no longer hinder them from returning to their own homes, where they had their Wives and their Children, principally since the Emperour gave them hopes of Liberty of Conscience, and the Preservation of their Privileges; for whose Infraction they had taken up Arms against him. That they daily persecuted him to accept these Conditions, which he had endeavour'd to elude; remonstrating to them, that these were Promises that would never have effect. That this had stopp'd them hitherto: but that at length the want of Power he labour'd under, would oblige him to close with those Offers.

This Secretary having laid these Reasons before the *Grand Vizier*, this Minister laid 'em before his Master; a Prince that having been brought up amid the effeminacy of the *Serraglio*, did by consequence love Peace much better than War. The *Grand Vizier*, for his part, desired nothing but Quiet; not but that he was well experienc'd in Martial Affairs, but because he loved a *Sultana*, whose sight he preferred before all things. By these means the Secretary had but a scurvy Reception; and the Answer made to him, was, that the *Grand Signior* would by no means engage openly in the War; but that he would give Order for the assisting of his Master, under hand, as had been done since his Revolt, against the Emperour. For this purpose several *Bassa's* had Order to repair to *Constantinople*, and there, in the Secretaries presence, were they commanded to keep a secret Correspondence

dence with *Teckely*, and to favour him in all they could, yet without committing any Hostility that could embroil the two Empires.

The Emperour, who was but ill serv'd in Spies, hearing of *Teckely*'s Secretary's arrival at *Constantinople*, and this meeting of the *Bassa*'s, imagin'd all to be for the making of War against him; and an Envoy he had in that Court, having signify'd to him, that the thing was so, he sent him Order to break the Designs that might be espouz'd to his prejudice in that Assembly, by several advantageous Offers he caus'd to be made to the *Turks*, if they would for Twenty Years prolong a Truce, that was made between the Two Empires, after the Battel of St. *Godard*. The *Grand Vizier*, who expected nothing less than this, was over-joy'd at this juncture, and resolv'd to procure the advantage of his Master, that was offer'd without run-

ning any Risque, he began to give out a Rumour of an approaching Rupture, that so the Emperour augmenting his allarums, might cause still more advantageous Conditions to be propos'd to him. Nevertheless, for the better insinuating of the War, he sent for the *Bassa* of *Buda*, who had not been summon'd to the first Assembly; and as he was the Person the Port was wont to consult in what concerned *Hungary*, the Emperour did not doubt, but that the *Turks* would proceed to a Rupture with him.

This *Bassa* was a Man between Eight and Twenty and Thirty Years old, as well made as a Man could be, brave to the highest Degree; but whose Wit did nevertheless surpass his Bravery, and Good Mien. He had obtain'd his Government, not so much however by his Good Qualities, as by the Love the *Sultana Zelinda* had conceived for him. And this Adven-

ture is extraordinary, and sparkish enough, so as to believe that I shall not weary out my Reader, by giving him an account of it.

This *Basse* was one of those Tribute-Children that are rais'd upon the *Christians*; and his Mother having not been able to dispense her self from this unhappy Law, which thus obliges to give what one best loves, no sooner saw that her Child was cull'd out by those that are appointed to exact it, but that she made a Mark in his Face, that she might be able to know him again another day. This Mark was just for all the World, as if he had put on a Patch; and far from being disguis'd by 't, it on the contrary, serv'd as a Beauty-spot. For this must needs be granted, that it does not unbecome a Man. Nevertheless, as it is a Token of an effeminate Spirit, that has recourse to these sorts of Artifices, it must be allowed at the same time, that those

who pretend thereby to pleaſe, far from ſucceeding in their Deſigns, render themſelves contemptible to the Fair Sex, which loves a man that does not thus trifle away his time in playing the Woman. The *Baſſa*'s Mother having taken this Precaution, ſaw him carry'd away with the leſs regret, as hoping ſhe had not wholly loſt him. He was educated in the place where the Children of Tribute are brought up; and when he was at an Age of learning ſomething, he diſtinguiſh'd himſelf from all the reſt: Inſomuch, that he was from that time obſerv'd to be a Subject worthy of officiating one time or other, the higheſt Places of Truſt. Nor were they deceiv'd in the hopes they had conceiv'd of him. The *Grand Signior*, who had been inform'd of his fine Qualities, having one day ſent for him into his Preſence, he lik'd him ſo very well, that he would needs have him to be his

Page. But this Youth, who was but between Twelve and Thirteen Years old, fell on his Knees before him, and beſought him rather to let him bear Arms; promiſing him, that he would one day render him ſuch good Services, that he ſhould not be ſorry he had granted him his Requeſt. It is often a Capital Crime to oppoſe the *Grand Signior*'s Will: And as their Yoak is tyrannick, ſuch like Complements have been often known to coſt the Lives of thoſe that made them. But either that the *Grand Signior* was in a good Humour that day, or that he was pleaſed with the prettineſs of this Child, he granted him what he deſired.

He was put among the *Janizaries*; and being one day upon the Guard, at the *Grand Vizier*'s Tent, this Miniſter commanded him with his own Mouth, not to ſuffer any body to enter, be it who it would. A moment after the *Aga*, who is

the Captain of the *Janizaries*, coming thither, our Youth denyed him the Door, which he being ſcandaliz'd at, he lift up his Hand to ſtrike him; asking him, if he knew not his *Aga*. The Anſwer the young man made him, was, levelling his Piece at him; and he had been a dead man, if ſome Officers, that were with the *Aga*, had not interpos'd to ſave him. The *Janizary* would not fire, for fear of killing an Innocent inſtead of the Offender; but ſtill keeping his Arms in a Poſture, he prevented his being ſeiz'd, which the *Aga* would have gladly done, that he might have puniſh'd him upon the Place, for the Affront he imagin'd he had receiv'd.

The *Grand Vizier* hearing a noiſe, ſent to ſee what was the matter; and being told the occaſion of the Diſorder, he himſelf came out of his Tent-door, where Both demanded Juſtice of him.

The

The young man was in ſuch a Rage, that the *Aga* had dar'd to lay his Hand upon him, that he could hardly open his Mouth. He remonſtrated to the *Vizier*, that he had done nought but executed his Orders: That thus he was as much concern'd as himſelf, to be reveng-ged, ſince that the *Aga*, who had been inform'd of the Prohibition, did ſufficiently ſhew the little value he had for his General, in thus ex-ceeding his Commands. But all that he could ſay, did not hinder the *Grand Vizier* from making him in the wrong, telling him, that he ought to have the Judgment to conſider, that the Prohibition did not regard the *Aga*, who being the Head of his Guard, ought to have free Ingreſs and Egreſs to his Quarters, for the receiving and executing what ſhould be com-manded him. Nevertheleſs, as the Greenneſs of his Years render'd him excuſable, beſides his having

o expreſly forbidden any one ſhould enter, as that he might believe, that the Prohibition was for all, he order'd the *Aga* to contain his Reſentment, and impoſed Silence on him. He fancy'd he had not ſo many meaſures to take on the young man's account, whom he look'd upon as a ſimple *Janizary*; and to whom beſides he imagin'd he had been very kind, in cauſing him to be pardon'd. But it lying upon our Youth's Heart, that a Hand had been lift up againſt him, far from being ſatisfy'd with his Sentence, he reſolv'd to right himſelf, ſince the Perſon he expected it from, had not done it.

Nor was the *Aga* on his ſide ſatisfy'd; and as he imagin'd it to be a Blot upon him, in having been inſulted by a Man who was bound to obey him, he would have proceeded to ſtrange Extremities, if he had not been afraid of diſpleaſing

ſing the *Grand Vizier*, who would be abſolute. Things being in this manner, they both would quickly have found the means of ſatisfying themſelves, if they had been of equal Condition: But inequality being the Cauſe that the *Aga* ſlighted the young man, and that the young man durſt not on his ſide offer to challenge him; they both watched for the Occaſion to give themſelves ſatisfaction; and the *Aga* went this way to work: He commanded the Youngſter in all perillous occaſions, hoping it would be impoſſible for him to eſcape periſhing in one or other. But Fortune taking care of him, not only preſerv'd him from Dangers, but alſo extended his Reputation ſo far, by the fine Actions he performed, that he was talk'd of in the moſt remote Provinces of the *Ottoman* Empire. Nay, and as People are wont to magnifie all Objects, according as what is related,

lated, is more or less distant, he was said to have atchiev'd such great things, as would have been capable of defacing those we read in History, if they had been true. In short, he began to make himself known in Places whither he was never like to go; and People had every where so good an Opinion of him, that as soon as the least advantage befel the *Ottoman* Empire, the better part of it was attributed to him, tho very often he had not been present in the Encounter.

This did not at all please the *Agà*, who far from diminishing any thing of his Resentment, in favour of his Merit, found, on the contrary, the aversion he had for him to augment. He look'd upon him as a Riling Enemy, and as a man that would stand candidate with him for the first Offices of the State, and the favour of his Master. Being prejudic'd with such like Sentiments;

timents, he did all he could in some wise to lessen his great Actions; and not being able to ravish him of the Honour that was due to him, he endeavour'd, at least, to make him share it with some others; hoping, that the more People partook therein, the less would be said to his advantage. The young *Janizary* would not perchance have taken notice of this, if he had not moreover had a Grudg in his Heart. But being attentive to all he did, he quickly perceiv'd with what Spirit he was animated; which still encreas'd the Desire he had of measuring his Sword with his. The Undertaking was great for a young Soldier. Nevertheless, the Affront he had done him, being ever present to his Memory, he had no Quiet till he had satisfy'd himself in this. This he effected by an occasion that was offer'd; and in this manner were matters brought about.

The

The Troops being in Winter-Quarters, the *Aga*, who had a great Passion for hunting, sent for *English* Hounds; and though it is not the Custom of the *Turks*, to hunt like us, a certain *Renegadoe* he had with him, discours'd him so often of the Pleasure we had in Stag-hunting, that he suffer'd himself to be led along with the temptation of seeing whether our way was better than theirs. Thus being out a hunting, the young man, who being still animated with the same Design, put himself into a false path, and caus'd one of his Friends, whom he had engag'd in his Interests, to suggest to him, that if he meant to be at the fall of the Stag, that was just coming to a Bay, he must scour along that way. The *Aga* was over-joy'd at this advice, which he took in good part; and being extraordinarily heated, he thunder'd along, without considering, whether he was attended, or not,

not. And indeed, he that had giv'ed him this Council, seeing that he was fallen into the Trap that was laid for him, instead of following him, gallop'd after the Dogs. By these means the young *Janizary* had the pleasure of seeing himself alone with his Enemy, whom he cry'd to as soon as he saw him, that he had long sought for such an opportunity as that, and that since it offer'd it self so happily, he desired him to give him satisfaction for the Outrage he had received.

This Complement surpriſed the *Aga*. However, as he did not want Courage, he laid hand to his Pistol, rather than to answer him: For you must know he had a pair at his Saddle Bow, contrary to the custom of those that go a Buck-hunting. The Young *Janizary* did the like on his side; and as they were in a place where they could not make any escape, to avoid a

Shot,

Shot, a Cut, or Thruſt, it was impoſſible for the Combat to be otherwiſe than cruel on both ſides. However, the young *Janizary* meaning to let him ſee that he had a Courage above all Fear, bid him fire firſt; and the *Aga* not ſtanding to be twice bid, levell'd his Piſtol at him, and miſs'd him. The young *Janizary* call'd out to him, to take his other Piſtol, and bid him fire again, which the *Aga* did, but with as little ſucceſs as the time before. He was very much at a loſs, after having thus miſs'd in his twice diſcharging: But he was very much ſurpriz'd when the *Janizary*, inſtead of availing himſelf of his advantage to kill him, or at leaſt, to make him beg his Life, cry'd out to him, not to be under any fear, and that out of acknowledgment for the Obligation he had to him for fighting him, he was willing to renounce the hopes he had of Victory. However, to let him ſee,

that

that he ſaid nothing to him, but what he was ready to do, he fir'd his two Piſtols in the Air, which put the *Aga* into great admiration. But he had not the leiſure to make any great Reflexion upon his generoſity; For at the ſame time the *Janizary* attack'd him with his Sable in his Hand, and preſs'd him in ſuch manner, that he plainly ſaw, that though he was rid of his Piſtols, yet was he not the leſs to be feared. He ſtood upon his Defence, and did all he could to ſtop him; but either that the *Aga* was not ſo expert as the *Janizary*, or that *Fortune* concern'd it ſelf in the matter, the *Janizary* gave him two Wounds, one in the Arm, of no great moment, and the other in the Body, which was much more dangerous.

While this Combat was in Hand, the *Aga*'s People not ſeeing him, and having heard firing ſeveral times, moſt of 'em quitted the Chace, and made

made that waywards, where they heard the noise. As they ran full gallop, they were not long a getting to the Place of Battel, and were much startled to find him wounded. Yet as part of these People belong'd to him, and that the rest were his Friends, they did not enquire into the occasion of the Quarrel. All their care was only to secure the young *Janizary*, who being in a narrow way, could not avoid falling into their Hands. In vain was it that he stood upon his Defence; the Number overwhelm'd his Vertue, insomuch, that he was loaded with Fetters, as if he had done the most criminal action in the World.

It was a great misfortune to him, in that the *Aga* did not see how they misus'd him; for after having try'd, as he had done, his Generosity, in all likelihood, far from suffering such a thing, he would have hinder'd it with all his Power. But the

the Wound he had receiv'd, and whose danger I have intimated, had reduc'd him to such a Weakness, as that he had lost both Speech and Knowledg. However, it could not be said, that he had been assassinated; for he had been also found with his Weapons in his Hands; And those that took the young *Janizars*, did themselves declare, that he singly had brought him into that Condition. All this together with the Youth of *Ibrahim* (so was the *Janizars* Name), and the great Actions he had done, did occasion his being generally pity'd by all Peoples especially when reflexion was made, that the *Aga* had put a signal Affront upon him; and for which any man of Courage, as well as he, would have taken his Revenge.

The *Grand Vizier* was the first of this Opinion; but with all this not one durst interpose in his behalf. If it was on one side consider'd, that the Resentment so com-

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mon to Men of Valour, was the Cause of his Fault; on the other, they made reflexion, that this Action was of mighty Consequence; at least, without being severely punish'd. Those that had the best intentions for him, did allow, that if he was pardon'd, it was the means to heighten the audaciousness of the Soldiers against their Leaders; a Crime that already reign'd so very much among the *Militia*, that it was absolutely necessary to remedy it. This Policy prevailing over any other Consideration, the whole Discourse was of making him serve for an Example to others. The *Grand Vizier* himself appear'd the most earnest to have him brought to a Tryal; but it was only outwardly; for under hand he caus'd the Officers of the Council of War to be founded, by whom he was to be try'd, to know, whether there was no way to bring him off. If he would have employ'd his Authority

in the Case, it would have been easie for him; and he needed only to say one word; but he was afraid of getting the *Odium* of all the Officers in the Army, that seem'd concern'd in the *Aga's* revenge.

Those whom he had thus given order to sound the Council of War, having brought him back word, that not one of them would promise him any thing, he be-thought himself of a very singular Stratagem, which was to send for each of them apart. Some he told, that the *Janizary's* Crime being the most enormous that a Soldier can commit, there was no Torment great enough to expiate it. That thus they would oblige him, by detaining those that be prone to commit a like Action, in condemning him to have his Hand cut off, and then to be empal'd alive. His Directions to others were quite in an other Stile. He told them, That indeed the

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Janizary deserv'd a most extraordinary Punishment; that Martial Law requir'd his Hand to be cut off, and then undergo an infamous Death: However, as he had perform'd a thousand fine Actions, and this the only ill one, he should be oblig'd to them, if they would in his favour relax of the Rigour of the Ordinances. That he did not demand of them absolutely to absolve him, but barely to condemn him to run the *Gauntlet*; a Sentence that nevertheless would be sufficiently rigorous, seeing that hardly any thing worse can be done to a man, save putting him to death.

The *Grand Vizier* was too absolute for them to dare to contradict him: every one of 'em promis'd what he requir'd, and effectually kept their Words. Thus when the young *Janizary* came to a Tryal, they were divided in their Opinions, some requiring he should be empal'd alive, after having had his

his Hand cut off, and others, that he ſhould barely run the Gantlet Not a man of them would deſiſt from his Sentiments; ſo as that they could not agree upon the Sentence, for which cauſe they had it referr'd to the *Grand Vizier*. But he, far from deciding, bid both Parties be ſtedfaſt; and in the mean while outwardly to terminate this Conteſt, he nominated Six Officers more to aſſiſt at the Tryal of the Proceſs. He for his Reaſons gave, that theſe would not perchance be divided, as the others; and that thus he ſhould make them agree in their Sentence. But before he nominated them, he made them all to promiſe all that he deſired; inſomuch, that Three opin'd on one ſide, and Three on the other; which rather augmented, than laid aſleep the Diſſention. And indeed I may call by this name, what had like to have been the occaſion of a great Diſorder: for every one thinking, that

the Opinion he declar'd himself of, was that of the *Grand-Vizier*, they spar'd one another so little, that after having been at hard Words, they appointed a Rendezvouze, to see one another with Sword in Hand. Of this the *Grand Vizier* was inform'd by one of those who thought to make his Court to him, by letting him see to what a Pitch he was affected to him. He was not mistaken; for the thing pleas'd the *Vizier* extreamly: Nevertheless, not judging it convenient to let it proceed farther, he forbid these Officers from proceeding to any such Extremity; and under Colour of not augmenting the occasion of their Enmity, he said, That since they could not agree upon the Point, he would send away the Prisoner to *Constantinople*, to be try'd by the *Grand Signior* himself.

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All the Officers that would perchance have found fault, had he undertaken to save him, of his single Authority, far from diving into his Secret, were the first to approve of his Prudence. Whereupon he sent him under a good and sure Guard; at least it seem'd so: but having way-laid it with Men, that were still more numerous than the Convoy, they freed him out of its Hands, after having put those to flight that should have oppos'd their Attempt. The young *Janizary*, who expected to die at *Constantinople*, as well as in the Camp, was over-joy'd at this Adventure, which he knew not what to attribute to. However, his joy was but of short continuance: for he had scarcely had time to thank his Deliverers, when that the Convoy return'd, with a Troop of Horse, which it had met on the way, and whose assistance it had implor'd. As soon as the others saw this, and that the Match

was not equal, they in their turn fled, and abandoned the poor *Janizary*, who being ill mounted, according to the Custom of all Criminals, could not follow them, tho his Heart did. The Convoy having thus taken him again, without much trouble, it did not otherwise mind running after the rest, who, to cut off all knowledg of their March, threw themselves into a Forrest on their Right Hand, and which contain'd ten Leagues at least in length.

By this means the young *Janizary* was conducted to *Constantinople*; which the *Grand Vizier*, being inform'd of, all that he could do, was to write to the *Sultana Zelinda*, who was very much his Friend, that she would employ her Credit, to save him. In the mean while the *Aga* had had time to recover; and as he was generous of himself, and that besides, he valu'd the young *Janizary's* Courage, where-

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of he had had good proof in the Combat he had had with him, he was no sooner upon his Legs, but that he entreated the *Grand Vizier* to suffer him to go to *Constantinople*, where he promis'd him to do all that in him lay, to obtain the young *Janizary*'s Pardon. The *Grand Vizier* having this very much at Heart, did not only give him leave, but that he might make the more expedition, he advis'd him to embark in a Ship, which he offer'd him. The *Aga* accepted it, and going accordingly on Board, there arose so great a Storm the very first day, that he was forc'd to come to an Anchor on the Coasts of the *Venetians*. This Re-publick was then in Peace with the Port, so as that the *Aga* there met with all sort of good Reception. He staid two or three days, waiting for good weather; and in that space a Woman came to beg of him, he would give her leave to embark in his

Ship, when that he made Sail. This Woman, who was already pretty well advanc'd in years, had a Daughter with her of an excellent Beauty; and the *Aga* thinking that she would go the Voyage too, not only granted her Request, in consideration of the Damsel, but likewise made her a thousand offers of Service. For he said in himself, that this was a Bit fit for the *Grand Signior*'s Tooth; and that if he could make himself Master of her, he should not only obtain the *Janizary*'s Pardon, but that he should also oblige his Master to do many things for him.

While that he fed himself with these hopes, the Woman told him, that this Beauteous Person, who was her Daughter, would not go the Voyage; which oblig'd him to take other measures. That which he contriv'd, was to conceal what pass'd in his Mind; telling this Lady, on the contrary, That he did well, in

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not expoſing her Daughter to the danger of the Sea, or to the inconveniency of a long Voyage. By this means he remov'd all the ſuſpicions ſhe might have conceiv'd, joyn'd to this, that he never look'd upon this Beautiful Perſon, but as if ſhe had been altogether indifferent to him. In the mean while, the day of his departure being come, and the Nymph returning to conduct her Mother to the Ship, he made Sail all on the ſudden. The Mother having perceiv'd, that they were moving, begg'd of him, to cauſe the Long-boat to be put out, to carry her Daughter back on Shoar: But the *Aga* ſeeing that there was no longer any danger for him, in declaring his Mind, he told her plainly, that her Daughter was too lovely to be the Wife of any private perſon; that he pretended to preſent her to the *Grand Signior*, as ſoon as he was arriv'd at *Conſtantinople*; That he believ'd ſhe would

infinitely pleaſe him: But if it prov'd not ſo, her Fortune would be greater than if ſhe ſtaid in her own Countrey: That he had not been able to ſee her, without finding her the moſt Charming Perſon breathing; and that if he did not love her, it was only for that it was not allowable in a Slave, as he was, to liſt up his Eyes upon a Perſon deſign'd for his Lord: That he ſaid no more, becauſe he was not ſuffer'd to explain his mind further; that Time would ſhew the reſt; and that this depended on the manner of her Reception by the *Grand Signior*.

This Complement was extreamly vexatious to this Lady, as well as to her Daughter: And it is impoſſible to relate all the melting things they ſaid to perſwade him, nor how many Tears they ſhed, ſeeing their Intreaties were in vain. However, that I may not dwell longer upon a Subject ſo worthy of Compaſſi-

on,

on, you must know, that all conspiring to the *Aga's* Desires, he had so fair a Wind, that his Ship made more way in Two Hours than he expected to do in Four. By this means he arriv'd at *Constantinople*, before that *Ibrahim* was conducted hither; which was of extream consequence to him, since it was to be feared, that the *Grand Signior* might take a Fancy to put him to Death as soon as he arriv'd. It was no extraordinary thing, that the *Aga* should have this thought, since he was ignorant of what the *Grand Vizier* had done for him, or that he had written to the *Sultana* in his behalf. However, having begg'd Audience of the *Grand Signior*, he presented him the Beautiful Person he had brought along with him, who was in some manner chang'd, both by the inconveniency of the Sea, and out of Grief to be thus led into Captivity. But though for these Rea-

sons she did not shine so much as usually, she nevertheless appeard so beauteous and charming to the *Grand Signior*, that he whisperd to himself a thousand times, that there was nothing in his *Seraglio* comparable to her. He made her at the same time several magnificent Presents, and worthy of so great a Prince. This Beautiful Person appear'd insensible to all this, as well as to the other Tokens of Love given her by the *Grand Signior*: But as the Will of those Princes serves for Law in all their Dominions, whatever repugnance she had to grant him any favour, she could not dispense her self from doing all that he required.

Enjoyment, which is wont to extinguish all Desires in other Lovers, produc'd a quite contrary effect in him. It is impossible to say to what Degree he lov'd her; and his fondness appear'd so strong, that it gave a jealousie to all the other

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Sultana's of the *Serraglio*. In the mean while, she had not been eight days thus declared the Favourite, when the Guard that conducted the *Janizary* arriv'd. He that commanded it, having had Audience of the *Grand Signior*, he presented him the *Grand Vizier's* Letter, by which this Principal Officer inform'd him of all that pass'd between the *Aga* and the *Janizary*: And to inspire him with Sentiments of Mercy, he gave him an exact Account of all the Occasions *Ibrahim* had been in; and forgot not to give him the Praises that were due to him. While that the *Grand Signior* read this Letter, the *Aga* being then present, had his Eyes fix'd upon him, to mind after what manner he took the thing; and he only waited till he had done, to throw himself at his Feet, and demand his Pardon. For after having chang'd Colour several times while that he read this Letter, an indubitable

mark

mark that it ſenſibly affected him, he tore it in a thouſand pieces; then walking thereupon, as a furious man; *This inſolent Wretch ſhall pay for it*, ſaid he; *and I am over-joy'd that he is brought hither, that he may gratifie my own ſight with his Execution. How!* continued he, *to attack his* Aga! *And what Torment can be invented, but what he deſerves to have a thouſand times more cruel?*

Every one ſeeing the *Grand Signior* in ſo great a Paſſion, caſt down their Eyes, and trembled. Thus not a Perſon but look'd on *Ibrahim* as a loſt Man, and all People pitty'd him, without knowing him otherwiſe than by Fame. In the mean time *Sultana Zelinda*, being ignorant of what paſs'd, ſent to entreat the *Grand Signior* to come and ſee her upon a matter of moment ſhe had to ſay to him. The *Grand Signior* went thither, and as ſoon as ſhe ſaw him, ſhe went about to pre-

poſſeſs

poſſeſs him, in favour of the *Janizary*, by a Relation of his fine Actions. But the *Grand Signior* not being pleas'd with this Diſcourſe, *Yes*, *Madam*, he anſwer'd, *he has done all you ſay: but d' ye alſo know what he has done more? D' ye know that he would have kill'd his* Aga? *And that to morrow I'le have him empal'd before my Eyes? Ah! God forbid, Sir*, the *Sultana* anſwer'd, *and have you no more care of your own Intereſts. Conſider, Sir, that after thoſe Trials of Skill this poor Wretch has made, he is born for the Glory of your Empire. If he had had leſs Courage, he would more patiently have born the Affront put on him by the* Aga. *See with what greatneſs of Mind he declin'd revenging himſelf, when it was in his Power to do it. He fires his Piſtols in the Air, againſt a Man that had newly fir'd two at him. Where is the Man that has done the ſame thing? and what Example have you of it in your Empire? Beſides, if*

your

your Celſitude did but conſider what you might expect from ſuch a Man, who is ſaid not to be Eighteen Years old as yet; and if you be not reſolv'd to yield to ſo many illuſtrious Marks of Valour, that you would, at leaſt, yield to my Entreaties. Yes, Sir, continued ſhe, *'tis I that implore your Mercy for that unfortunate Man. You know, Sir, I know him not; but I am ſo affected with his great Actions, that though he were my Brother, I ſhould not intercede more for him.* At theſe words ſhe threw her ſelf at his Feet, and embrac'd his Knees, telling him, ſhe would never riſe, unleſs he granted her Requeſt.

This *Sultana* had formerly been his whole Inclination; and it was only ſince the Arrival of the New Commer, that her Credit was no longer ſo great. Nevertheleſs, this Prince ſtill expreſs'd a great regard for her; and the World ſaw, that notwithſtanding his new fondneſs, he ſtill honour'd her with his Viſits.

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Wherefore he did certainly believe that her Request was going to be granted her. But this Prince imagining, that it was for his Interest to punish a Crime, that being pardon'd, might give an Ill Example to his Soldiery; *Ask me, Madam,* said he to her at the same time, *all you please, and I will instantly grant it you; but do not importune me any longer, I beseech you, for a thing which I must, of all necessity, deny you. It sensibly troubles me, loving you so tenderly as I do; but you would not have my Complaisance proceed so far, as to injure my Empire. You see the Consequences of it as well as I; but as I fancy, you did not reflect upon them.* Thereupon he represented to her, how necessary it was to keep up Obedience among the Soldiery; and that if *Ibrahim* was not punish'd, all the others would think it allowable in them to do what he had done. However, to let her see, that it was not out of Passion that he spoke in

this

this manner, tho he had manifeſted ſome in the beginning of his Diſcourſe, upon her Conſideration, he chang'd the manner of his Death, and promis'd her, that he ſhould only be be-headed.

As this *Sultana* did not act of her own motion, and that it was only to do the *Grand Vizier* a kindneſs, ſhe would not importune him any longer, contenting her ſelf with telling him, that her Deſign was not to torment him; but that if he could have granted her this Requeſt, without injuring of himſelf, ſhe ſhould have been much obliged to him. The *Aga*, who had ſaid nothing as yet, having learnt, that this *Sultana* had been refus'd, durſt not ſpeak, well knowing, that his Credit did not come near to hers. Thus nothing now was expected, but to ſee the *Janizary* dye, the Day of whoſe Execution was aſſign'd on the morrow. The *Grand Signior* had the Cruelty to have it perform'd in his Pre-

Preſence, and appointed the Place under the Windows of the *Serraglio*, contrary to the uſual Cuſtom. The Hour drawing near, he went to the new-come *Sultana*'s Room, and there, without being ſeen, he view'd through a Lettice-Window, the whole Preparation for the Execution, having the Young *Sultana* by his ſide, and her Mother, whom he had left with her. A Moment after came the Young *Janizary*; and the Mother had no ſooner caſt her Eyes upon him, but that ſhe cry'd out; *Ah, Sir, what ſee I here! this is my Son; and if you do not pardon him, I ſhall die at your Feet.* Theſe Words did extreamly ſurpriſe the *Grand Signior*, as well as the Young *Sultana*: And the *Grand Signior* imagining, that ſome body made her ſay this, to ſave him: *Ah! Madam*, ſaid he to her, *how can this be your Son? and though it were ſo, how can you know him again, he that is not above Eighteen Years old, and has*

been

been here above these Fourteen? It is my very Son, Sir, she answer'd him in a frightful Condition, *and if you have any kindness for the Sister, save her unhappy Brother.* Thereupon she told him succinctly the Mark she had caus'd to be made upon him, that she might know him again; and that she came to seek him out, when that the *Aga* stole away her Daughter. She added, That if it was her Son, he must likewise have a Mark on the left Arm, but which was natural; That it was of the form of a Pigeon: and that if it were not so, she did not pretend he should pardon a Person that had had the unhappiness to displease him.

The Young *Sultana* hearing the Mother talk in this manner, or rather partaking in her Grief, she threw her self at the *Grand Signior's* Feet, and told him, That after having rais'd her to the Rank she possess'd, she did not think he would give her the Affliction of seeing her Bro-

Brother pass through the Hands of an Executioner: That she found her self in a strange Concern, a Token that her Mother was not mistaken: That she must however tell him the same thing that she had told him; namely, that they should view his Arm, and then pass on to the Execution, in case they did not find the designed Mark. The *Grand Signior* taking care to lift her up again; *Yes, Madam*, said he to her, *what you demand is just; and though I am going to make a scurvy Business on't with the* Sultana Zelinda, *to whom I have refus'd* Ibrahim's *Life, I am very glad that this has thus happen'd, to let you see, that I consider you above all others.* At these words, he gave a Slave order, to go immediately to the Place, where the Execution was going to be perform'd, to make the *Janizary* shew his Left Arm; and if the Mark before-mention'd was there, to cry out Pardon at the same time.

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The Slave knowing what part the *Sultana* Favourite took in this Commission, did not leave off running till she came to the Place, where it had been too late, had she staid never so little longer. For indeed in a moment later it had been done; and, as I may say, the Executioner had already his Arm lift up to compleat his Work. But the coming in of this Slave having stopp'd him: *Look upon me*, said she to the *Janizary*, who did not mind her: *I come from the* Grand Signior, *and he commands thee to shew me thy Left Arm bare. Does he already repent*, he answer'd her with a firmness becoming his great Courage, *of his Favour to me? If he will have my Hand to be cut off, 'tis not the Left I am to give thee, but the Right, with which I attack'd the* Aga. At the same time he presented the Hand to him he then mention'd: But the Slave said to him, *The* Grand Signior *does not send me hither to do thee more harm*

harm than thou haſt receiv'd. I can ſay no more to thee, but ſhew thy Obedience to his Commands, by letting me ſee the other Arm inſtead of this. The *Janizary* ſeem'd very indifferent at theſe Words, and ſhewing her what ſhe demanded, ſhe had no ſooner turn'd up his Shirt Sleeve, but that ſhe perceiv'd the Form of a Pigeon: She immediately cry'd out, *Pardon, pardon*; which amaz'd all thoſe that were preſent, who knew that *Sultana Zelinda* had been refus'd the ſame thing, as was declar'd by the Slave. The Officers would not believe her upon her bare word; but alſo not daring to proceed, becauſe that ſhe ſpake in the name of the *Grand Signior*, they ſent to know his Pleaſure. The *Grand Signior* confirm'd what ſhe had ſaid: And thus in an Inſtant the *Janizary* was ſeen to paſs from a ſhameful Puniſhment, to a Fortune that would have been much greater, but for an unhappy Accident that befel his Siſter: She was become

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big with Child, miscarry'd, and after that had a flux of blood, that hinder'd the *Grand Signior* from seeing her of a long time in private: And as she no longer contributed to his pleasures, she was quickly in the Rank of forgotten Persons.

After this *Sultana Zelinda* became more than ever in favour. She had mortally hated the other, during the little time she had been in Credit; Not content to see her self triumph o're her Rival, through the Disaster that was befallen her, she did what she could to ruine her entirely in the *Grand Signior*'s Opinion. She forged several Letters, by which she seem'd to be a Damsel that had had several Intrigues in her own Countrey: And if the *Grand Signior* had been Credulous, she would have been shamefully turn'd out of the *Serraglio*. But this Prince knowing what to attribute this Detraction to, and who besides look'd upon himself as the only Cause of this *Sultana*'s Ca-

Calamity, entreated *Zelinda* to entertain him no longer with such like Discourses; adding, that on the contrary, she must live in good Terms with her, if she meant to be agreeable to him.

This Advice was a kind of Command. This *Zelinda* was to use Violence to her own Inclination. But what is not a Person capable of, when the Business is to captivate the Heart of a Great Monarch? Not only she abstain'd from speaking ill of her any more, but she likewise saw her with as great Expression of Kindness as any other: So true is it, That when the Master commands, nothing is impossible. This pleas'd the *Grand Signior* extreamly, who was daily more and more concern'd at the unhappy Condition the other *Sultana* was reduc'd to. For you must know, that her flux of Blood did not cease, which was doubtless worthy of Compassion. Now that he might declare to her his Regret

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for her Illneſs, he granted her all the Favours ſhe demanded of him: nay, and often prevented her Requeſts: Inſomuch, that Pity, with him, ſupply'd the Place of Love. But nothing could ſo much perſwade her of the Conſideration he had for her, as his giving her Brother leave to come ſee her Twice a Week in the *Serraglio*. A thing that was never ſeen in the *Ottoman* Empire, and which perhaps will never be ſeen again. He had already given him the Office of Vice-Admiral of the Seas, and had heap'd ſundry other Favours upon him; inſomuch, that he might be ſaid to be a fine Example of the Inconſtancy of Fortune, who after having us'd him ſo ſeverely, ſmil'd ſo much upon him at that time, ſo far, as that he was one of the Men of that Empire, to whom He promis'd moſt, and who, on his ſide, had the fineſt Qualities therewith to correſpond. For tho we daily ſee, that ſhe makes her Choice fall upon ſuch Per-

Persons as are unworthy of it; yet must you agree with me, that when she sheds her Favours upon Men of Worth and Ability, they are much more capable of keeping them than others.

This is a Truth that cannot be deny'd. But without dwelling longer upon this Subject, you must know, that one day when he went to see his Sister, the *Sultana Zelinda* came thither, but in such an extraordinary Magnificency, that had she had a Design of Dazling the *Grand Signior*, she could not have done more. The *Grand Signior* had given the sick *Sultana* order, not to admit any body into her Lodgings while her Brother was there. Thus when the other came to the Door, she let her know, that she was extreamly griev'd that she could not receive her, and told her the Occasion. But *Sultana Zelinda* made answer, that the Prohibition was not for her; and at the worst,

it was but letting the *Grand Signior* know nothing of the matter. This answer seem'd very *sparkish* to the sick *Sultana*; and as she was afraid of incurring the *Grand Signior*'s Displeasure, she rose up hastily to go mind her her self, that far from the Prohibition's not being made for her, it would be found to be principally on her account, if the *Grand Signior* was brought to explain his Intentions. But the other making a Jeast of all she said to her, reply'd, That they were Both too wise ever to say a Word of the matter; and that thus there was no great danger in not remembring the Prohibition. And going still on, as she said these Words, she came into the Room, where was the sick *Sultana*'s Brother. Since he had been in *Turky* he had seen a World of fine Women; so as that he had no reason to be surpriz'd at Beauty: yet could he not sustain the Lustre of the *Sultana*'s, which he gaz'd upon with Ad-

Admiration. But this Admiration produc'd no Softneſſes and Wiſhings, either that he was withheld by Reſpect, or, as is more probable, that Sympathy, which is wont to produce ſuch ſurprizing effects in an Inſtant, was not in him. He would have gone away that very moment, which put *Sultana Zelinda* in a Maze; and ſhe ask'd him, whether ſhe frighted him? He made her ſuch an Anſwer as *Gallantry* requir'd of him to ſuch a Queſtion as that: Then he added, That he knew the Reſpect he ow'd her, and that this was the Cauſe that he was content to deprive himſelf of the Pleaſure there was in ſeeing her. *That's being too wiſe, and too prudent*, ſhe ſaid to him, *for a Perſon of your Age: And if Reſpect, as you ſay, obliges you to be gone, I diſpence you from that, nay, and require you to ſtay here.*

This Diſcourſe ſeem'd very free for ſuch a Perſon as *Zelinda*, who had ſo many meaſures to keep: and

the sick *Sultana*, and her Brother, did presently imagine that she must have powerful Reasons to induce her to talk in that manner. If it had been becoming a Man to have had a little good Opinion of himself, *Ibrahim* might have fancy'd that he had some share therein; and though this had happen'd, he would not have been much in the wrong, since in Truth *Sultana Zelinde* was fallen in Love with him, upon the Rumour of his Reputation; Insomuch, that being very willing to inform her self, whether greater Commendations were not bestow'd upon him than were due to him, she had pas'd o're a great many Considerations to have a sight of him. Thus was she far from suffering him to be gone; and as People are wont to interpret all things to their advantage, she took for Tokens of a budding Passion, all the fine things he could not forbear saying to her, both upon her Beauty and her Wit.

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It is a wonder how *Ibrahim* came away from this Interview, without being in Love: For it is certain she did all she could to please him, which joyn'd to her Beauty, which was not Common, ought to produce great effect upon a Man of Eighteen Years old. She was oblig'd to go away soon, because that word was brought her, that the *Grand Signior* was going into her Apartment. *Fough*, said she in *Ibrahim*'s Ear, *he knows not how troublesome his Visit is to me; and if I might speak my Mind, I should desire him to put it off till another time.*

This was a sufficient hint to a man that was not stupid: But what gave him still a better Opinion of his good Fortune, is, that she pres'd his Hand at her going away. He thought not fitting to say the least of this to his Sister, though he was not wont to conceal the least thing from her; but he believ'd there to be such as he could not divulge,

without being wanting to the Character of a well-bred Man, and he plac'd in the Number of these what had newly happen'd. *Sultana Zelinda* being gone, the beauteous sick *Sultana* ask'd him, what he thought of her: *All that a man can think, Madam*, said he to her, *of a Beautiful Person; and I know only You that ever was capable of disputing the Prize of Beauty with her. What I now say*, he continued, *ought not to be suspected by you: You know, that Flattery is very ill becoming in the Mouth of a Person that has the Honour of being so nearly related to you: But if what I now say to you, be not sufficient to perswade you of my sincerity, I mean to tell you with the same ingenuity, that I have hardly in my Life seen a more Beautiful Person; and yet I know none that affects me less.*

This Converse held them till the time requir'd for him to go to his own House. The fain, though sick

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Sultana, was over-joy'd to ſee him have theſe Sentiments: For though the *Grand Signior* had commanded her to live in good Terms with *Sultana Zelinda*, ſhe againſt her had a certain Jealouſie, which is natural to Perſons that aſpire to one and the ſame Heart. And indeed, though in the beginning ſhe had only comply'd with the *Sultana*'s Deſires, out of a kind of neceſſity, ſhe came in proceſs of time, to reliſh the Occaſion; not, perchance, his Perſon, but at leaſt the Grandeur of his Empire, which he had ſhar'd with her, ſo long as ſhe had enjoy'd a perfect Health. So ſweet a time being ever preſent to her Memory, ſhe wiſh'd nothing ſo much as that ſhe might recover. It was rather on this account, than to deliver her from the Indiſpoſition ſhe labour'd under, that ſhe ſent for Phyſicians from all parts, to whom ſhe promis'd Immenſe Sums, if they could ſtop the Malady with which ſhe was afflicted.

cted. Several promis'd her what they did not perform; but at last, after having pass'd through the Hands of all these Quacks, there was one that offer'd his Service, telling her, that he would stake his Life against her Recovery. That nevertheless, as she was weakned both by the Nature of her Distemper, and the violent Remedies that had been given her, it requir'd time to see the effects of his Promises, for as much as that she was to be restor'd by little and little, before the last Hand could be put to her Recovery.

The Promises this Physician made were quickly divulg'd throughout the *Grand Signior*'s Court; and tho they could hardly obtain Credit, after so many others that had fail'd the beauteous *Sultana*; yet *Zelinda* was allarum'd at them, principally when she knew, that by the Means of the Remedies he had given her, she already began to mend daily. She would

would willingly have doubted of it, so ungrateful was the thing to her; but it was impossible for her to do it, seeing her self, by the Change that appear'd in her Face, that to think the contrary, would be to flatter her self. However, you must know, that she still continu'd to love her Rival's Brother: and of this she had given him several Tokens, in some other Visits which she had still paid him when he was there. Nevertheless, things had not proceeded further as yet, either for want of Conveniency, or that perhaps she was afraid of trusting her Secret with a Person engag'd in Interests so contrary to hers. But in short, she past o're this Consideration in some days after, and that because she fancy'd she saw in him a Love that fell in nothing short of hers. It was in her Sisters Apartment, where she imagin'd she perceiv'd it. She was gone to pay her a Visit, after her usual manner; and discoursing fa-

miliarly with him of the return of her Sisters Health; *She will be more beautiful than ever*, said she to him; *and as the* Sultan *will not fail of reviving his Flames, you will quickly share his Favour with her. I do not envy*, added she, *her happiness; but I am vex'd that the Benefits you are going to receive, should come to you through any other hands than mine.*

Before I tell his Answer, you must know, that what ever indifference he had entertain'd for her in the beginning, he had in the process of time, found so many Charms in her Conversation, that if he was not Hand over Head in Love with her, yet it might be said, that she was not indifferent to him; for which Reason, taking that time to declare the Sentiments to her he had for her, *I love my Sister*, said he to her, *as a Brother is bound to love her; but in short, if I was suffer'd to tell my whole thoughts upon the matter, as there are others in the World whom I love infi-*

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nitely more, it would be much more grateful to me, that they took care of my Fortune. Wherefore, added he, *if it muſt be to their Prejudice, that ſhe recovers her Health, though it would be more handſome in me to think it than to ſay it, I am willing you ſhould know, that I wiſh ſhe might never be cured.* This was a ſufficient Explanation of his Mind, as not to leave any room for doubt, but that ſhe was the Party ment in his Diſcourſe: So as that ſhe was extreamly well ſatisfy'd: And as there is nothing that makes greater progreſs with a Perſon, as her knowing that you correſpond with her Paſſion, *Sultana Zelinda* was quickly ſenſible of ſuch raging Flames, that ſhe was oblig'd to unboſome them to their Author.

It was not without Confuſion however, that ſhe reſolved to take this Courſe. Such a ſtep is ever a wrecking ſort of Buſineſs to a Woman: and if ordinary ſort of Damſels

ſels make ſuch a-do in coming to that paſs, what muſt it not be when it befalls ſuch a Perſon as *Zelinda*? Nevertheleſs, Love being ſtronger in her than all the Reflexions ſhe could make, ſhe took Pen and Ink, and wrote theſe Words to him:

Sultana Zelinda's *Letter to* Ibrahim.

IT is time that I lay aſide the Scruples that ſtop me. I love you, ſince I muſt needs tell it you: And indeed, to what purpoſe would it be for me to conceal it, ſince you are ſufficiently clear ſighted, to ſee it in every thing I daily do. Your Siſter has no ſhare in the Viſits I make her: You ought to make the Application of them wholly to your ſelf: And ſhe is ſo very far from flattering her ſelf with them, as that we both of us make ſuch Figures, as would hinder us from ever being good Friends, had ſhe not a Brother

that

that is capable of making me forget all things. Thus let her in peace enjoy the Sultan's *Heart; I shall never be jealous of her, provided, that you assure me, you will render me the Mistress of Yours.*

Ibrahim being daily more and more taken with the *Sultana Zelinda*, reliſh'd this Letter extreamly; and for fear ſhe ſhould repent of having written theſe kind things, he expreſs'd his own Gallantries in theſe Terms:

Ibrahim's *Anſwer to* Sultana Zelinda.

IF hitherto nothing but my Looks has told you, that I love you, do not think, Madam, that I was detain'd by any other Conſideration, than the Reſpect I have for you. I do not fear enting upon the Sultan's *Tenures, and though it were to coſt me my Life,*

Life, I am prepar'd for all, rather than remain any longer in silence. Thus it is not your Letter that quickens me, I had already my Pen in Hand, to assure you, that you are the most lovely Person in the World, and that I am the most in love of all men. Give me, I beseech you, Madam, an Assignation elsewhere than at your Sisters; You will see, that the Expression I have newly us'd, is much too weak to express all those soft Wishings you have inspired me withal.

Though *Ibrahim* took mighty pleasure in reading the Letter that was sent him, yet *Sultana Zelinda* was no less satisfy'd than he. Thus Both having Sentiments so conformable to one another, they were careful when they saw one another at the Sisters Lodgings, to procure a more particular Interview to themselves. *Zelinda* brib'd an Eunuch, who introduc'd *Ibrahim* privately into her Apartment; and there they interchang'd so many Testimonies of

a Reciprocal Love, that after having ſpent the Night together, *Ibrahim* did not talk of going, nor *Sultana Zelinda* of ſending him away home. In the mean while, it being already broad day, and *Zelinda* obdig'd to ſhew her ſelf to her Waiting Woman, ſhe ſhut *Ibrahim* up in a Cloſet; and he, in hopes of having the ſame Pleaſures the following Night, as he had had the Night paſt, was not at all ſorry to be thus put into Priſon. He there ſpent Two or Three Hours in be-witching Imaginations, as is uſual with happy Lovers. But, as there is nothing ſo common as to ſee them paſs all on the ſudden, from the top of Happineſs to an Abyſs of Miſeries, at the time he was deepeſt plung'd in theſe agreeable Thoughts, he heard a great noiſe, which oblig'd him to liſten. It was the *Grand Signior*, who was come to ſee *Sultana Zelinda*; and Both being ſeated pretty near the Cloſet-Door, he heard the *Sultan* ſpeak-

speaking these Words to her:

It is a strange thing, Zelinda, to see how you use me at present: I love you daily more and more, and yet far from corresponding therewith, you can hardly suffer my Caresses. I see that all you do is only out of Constraint; and as that is not natural, some body must certainly have robb'd me of your heart. There was a time when I flatter'd my self, that I had it all entire; and when I compare so happy a time with the present, I find my self under so profound a Grief, that I know not how it comes that I do not die of despair. For you I renounce all the other Soltana's: With whatever Charms Nature has provided them, my Eyes are not favourable to them. Nevertheless, they all do what they can to please me. Whereas you now look on me so indifferently, that it seems as if I were burdensome to you. What does all this mean, Madam, added he, *can I be so unhappy, as that you should have a disgust for me, or that my Conduct*

should

ſhould make me incur ſo ill a Treatment? If I am the cauſe of it, you need only to ſpeak, and you will ſee me ſo complaiſant, that though I were your Slave, I could not obey you better. But what do I ſay! Am not I effectually ſo? And do you ſee, that I ever in your regard, made uſe of the Power given me by the Rank I here hold. All the People you ſee of both Sexes, make it their main Pride to ſooth my Will; and for my part, I make it mine wholly to ſooth yours.

Such a Diſcourſe at any time is troubleſome, principally when one knows, that there is ſome ground for it: But it's quite another thing, when a natural Coldneſs is joyn'd to ſome Conſideration. Thus the Fear *Zelinda* was in for her Lover, who was not ſo well concealed, but that he might be diſcovered, rendring her altogether unhing'd, or rather, quite nonpluſs'd, and in utter Confuſion, ſhe made ſuch a ſorry De-

fence,

fence, that the *Grand Signior*, who was not, perhaps, as yet jealous, begun to harbour ſome gauling apprehenſions. *You have reaſon, Madam,* he ſaid to her, *for not vouchſafing me ſo much as the trouble of diſabuſing me: When one hates People, it is very indifferent, whether they think they are beloved or not. But, what do I ſay? You would be glad that I left you, that ſo you might be at eaſe.* He then held his Peace, to ſee whether ſhe would uſe her utmoſt endeavours to give him better Impreſſions: but perceiving that ſhe continued in a kind of Inſenſibility, which was worſe to him, a thouſand times, than the greateſt Slights: *Ah! this is too much, Madam,* renew'd he, *and ſince now I can no longer doubt, but that you deſpiſe me, at leaſt, without being inſenſible, I muſt watch ſo narrowly, to diſcover who can be the Cauſe of it, that nothing may eſcape my Penetration.*

At these words he rose up, all in Anger, and his Design was to be gone that very Instant; but his Love detaining him in spight of his Intentions: *But pray, Madam,* said he to her, *have you nothing to say to me? And will ye let me go away desperate? What can I say to you, Sir?* she answer'd him: *And if you be in an ill Humour, am I the Cause of it? Yes, that's it that makes me now incur all these Complaints: wherefore, as I hope it will quickly be over, far from detaining you, I should be glad you would go your ways.* She paid him her Respects after the rate of our Womens Courtesies, as soon as she had finish'd this Discourse: And the *Grand Signior* not being wont to be treated in this manner: *Yes, I will go, Perfidious Woman,* he said to her, *since you will have it so. Nay, I'le do more: I am going to use my utmost endeavours to forget thee; and happy shall I be, if I can accomplish this Design. Nevertheless, I must*

tell

tell thee, that I plainly perceive from whence thy insensibility proceeds; thou lovest some other; and as thou must have seduced the People that are about thee, to serve thee in thy new Passion, my Wrath is going to pour upon them, till such time as that my Love does permit me to revenge my self on thee. At these Words he sent for all those he had plac'd about the *Sultana*, and after having question'd them each by him, or her self, and threatned cruelly, for that they had not with sufficient Fidelity look'd after the *Sultaness*; he caus'd Two to be strangled in his Presence.

This was matter to startle her mightily, as well as *Ibrahim*, who heard all that pass'd, from the place where he was shut up. However, after having thus given Instances of his Cruelty, he went his ways in a terrible storm. But hardly was he got out of her Chamber, but that he return'd his Eyes, all sparkling with

with Fury: *Open me, Madam,* said he to her, *your Closet, to see if you have not had the imprudence to keep some Love-Letters: And since that I am so unhappy, that the People I have plac'd about you, are more trusty to you than me, let me, at least, omit nothing of what may inform me of the Occasion of my Misfortune.* It is easie to apprehend, that these did strangely surprize the *Sultana* as well as *Ibrahim*, who had heard them distinctly. However, *Zelinda*, after having committed the fault of not managing this Prince, as became her, by some kind Words, hoping that she might repair it: *Ah, Sir,* said she to him, *Must your Celsitude needs continue to outrage me by the most sensible Suspicions imaginable? Should I write to any Body but my Dear Lord? And should I receive Letters from any other than himself?* In saying these Words, she threw her Arms about his Neck: but he stepping back, *How, Madam*, he answer'd her,

from

from whence comes it, that you are so sensible to this Reproach, and that you were not so but a moment ago to so many others that I made you. I said a thousand things t' ye more outraging than this; and not content with Words, I proceeded to Effects. All this, nevertheless, was not capable, as I may say, of unlocking your Teeth. You saw, that I exercised my Justice upon Wretches, without so much as vouchsafing to implore my Mercy. What's the meaning of your talking now, when what I do does not come near the hundredth part of what I did. I must certainly, added he, *have caught you by your Feeble; and I beseech you to open this Closet to me instantly, to see whether I be mistaken or not.* The *Sultana* seeing that her Artifices had availed her nothing, found her self still at a greater loss than before. She would still have trifled him off with some sorry Reasons; but he, instead of being therewith satisfy'd, thinking, as it was true,

true, that all her Excuſes only departed from the fear ſhe was in of his diſcovering her Concerns: *Ah! this is delaying too much, Madam,* ſaid he to her, *and if you give me not the Key which I demand of you, I ſhall quickly break open the Door.* The *Sultana* no longer knowing what to ſay, made ſemblance of feeling for it in her Pocket, and not finding it, making the *Grand Signior* very impatient; *Piſh, once again I tell you, this is trifling too long,* ſaid he to her in a furious Paſſion; *and I ſee plainly that you fool me.* At theſe Words he call'd ſome Perſons of his Train, with a reſolution to command them to break open the Door.

Ibrahim did not attend that Extremity to ſhift for himſelf; and having devin'd, that Matters would come to that paſs, he had ſeaſonably open'd the Cloſet-Window, that look'd into the Garden, and leap'd out of it. It was full Thirty Foot high;

high; but he had been ſo happy, as not to hurt himſelf. However, in avoiding one danger, he fell into an other. No-Body comes into this Garden, but the *Grand Signior* and the *Sultana's*; and were he diſcover'd, it was almoſt the ſame thing for him, as if he had been caught in *Zelinda's* Cloſet. As he knew all this very well, he immediately ſought out ſome place where he might hide himſelf. This was no difficult matter; for Places there were enough, where a Man might hope not to be perceiv'd: but wiſely making reflexion, that it was not ſufficient to avoid all Peoples ſight, but that he muſt likewiſe contrive the means to get out of that Garden, which he could not do, but by the Miniſtry of the Gardiner: He reſolv'd to truſt himſelf to him: For this purpoſe he caſt his Eyes about, to ſee if he could ſpy him; and getting no Body in ken, he perceiv'd an Houſe, which could belong

long to none but him: Thither ſtole he, and after having liſten'd attentively at the Door, he knock'd, and a Woman came and open'd it, and was mightily ſurpriz'd to ſee ſo handſome a Man, and of ſo good a Mien. *Save my Life*, ſaid *Ibrahim* to her, without Heſitation; and to merit her giving ſome attention to his Words, he gave her his Purſe, which was top-full of Gold, with a Diamond of great value. This does Wonders in the Age we live; and in *Turkey*, as well as here, there are very ſerviceable People, when a man knows how to engage them by ſuch winning, Such attractive Means as theſe *Ibrahim* made uſe of. And indeed, this Woman, without making any Reflexion on the Danger ſhe expos'd her ſelf to, if it ſhould chance to be known, that ſhe had given him harbour (for in fine, ſhe might well imagine, that he came from the *Serraglio*), let him in very amicably; and having diſcours'd ſome time together upon this Ad

venture, he was oblig'd to tell her, that *Love* was the Cauſe of his Diſorder, yet without ſpecifying to her any further particulars.

The Woman, who was the Gardiner's Wife, hearing him talk in this manner, bid him fear nothing; and as ſhe had been formerly in Love, ſhe would take a moſt peculiar Care of him. That ſhe knew what a Perſon was capable of in that Condition; not that ſhe had ever done any thing but in Honour and Honeſty, but becauſe that her Relations being againſt her marrying the Husband ſhe had, they were both oblig'd to have recourſe to Artifices, to deceive them. Thereupon ſhe began to run into Particulars of her Husband's Courtſhip; and already began to make known by the Prologue, that the Hiſtory would be long, when *Ibrahim*, who had other things in his Head, deſired her to defer that Account till an other time; giving her to underſtand

ſtand, that ſome body or other might pop in upon them immediately; and that it was expedient to find out a Place where to hide him.

In all this Houſe there was but one Chamber, and a Garret over it; and *Ibrahim* was of Opinion to go into the Garret; but was diſſwaded from that by this Woman, who told him, that a Fellow her Husband employ'd in his Profeſſion, lay in it; and that as they knew not how long he ſhould be obliged to ſtay there, it was not fit he ſhould be ſeen by a young giddy-pated Coxcomb, who might perchance diſcover the whole Myſtery. She was rather of advice, to diſguiſe him as a Woman; and he jumping with her in Opinion, ſhe gave him a whole Suit of hers, and hid his in the Bed. While that this *Metamorphoſis* was doing, in came the Husband, who was mightily ſurprized to ſee a ſtrange Face, and whoſe Sex

his dear Spouſe was buſie a chang-ing. As ſhe was ſo ſo pretty, and that it's very natural to be jealous, he began to make a terrible Buſſle; nay, and perhaps things would have proceeded further than Noiſe, had he had the ſtrength in his Hand. *Ibrahim* threw himſelf at his Feet, begging him not to ruine him, and owning ingenuouſly to him, that it was for an other Woman than his Wife, that he was fallen into that Perplexity, it moderated his Jealou-ſie a little. But nothing put him in ſo good an Humour as the Purſe and the Diamond, which his Wife ſhew'd him. Whereupon *Ibrahim* added, that what he ſaw was no-thing, and that he would make him other-gueſs Preſents, in caſe he was truſty to him.

This Husband ſeeing ſome likeli-hood in what he ſaid to him, did a little calm his Anger. Nevertheleſs, having heard, that Gallants paulm'd ſtrange things upon Husbands, he be-

began to fall again into his jealous fit, telling *Ibrahim* very resolutely (for fear all this was Trick), that he would know from what part of the *Serraglio* he had thrown himself into the Garden. This was a question he would never have been prevail'd upon to satisfie, nay, though it had cost him his Life, if in that instant he had not remembred that his steps were printed in the place where he fell, and that thus it was a Proof against the *Sultana*, should the *Grand Signior* come to take notice of it. For this reason did he no longer persevere so much in concealing his Secret from him; he own'd all ingenuously to him; and desiring him at the same time to take a Spade, and under pretence of working in that place, set what he should think necessary to rights, as well for the *Sultana*'s safety as his own. Though that at the Name of the *Sultana Zelinda*, the Gardiner knew her to be the *Grand Signior*'s

Favourite, he was a little troubled at the danger he was going to throw himself into, if the Intrigue ever came to be discovered. Yet as one is ever more sensible to one's own Concerns, than to those of another, he was very glad that he had cured him of those Suspicions that might have remained in his Head. He went immediately to do what *Ibrahim* said to him; and he had hardly struck twice with his Spade, but that the *Grand Signior* appear'd to him out of the Closet-Window, asking him if he had not seen any body leap down.

As you will doubtless wonder, that after the Orders the *Grand Signior* had given to his Men, to break open the Door, so much time had pass'd before he came into that Closet, it is fitting that you know, that those he had brought with him to the *Sultana's* Apartment, thinking he would stay there some time, as he was wont to do, had straggled up and

and down, ſo as that when he wanted them, they were not to be found. Nay, ſome hearing what paſs'd, and thinking to oblige the *Sultana*, who they knew had a great aſcendant over him, went out of the way on purpoſe, ſo that he had himſelf been forc'd to take an Iron Crow; and as the Door was ſtrong, he had been a long while before he could break it open. Beſides, he had proſecuted his firſt Thought; That is to ſay, of ferretting her Scrutoir, and all the other Places where ſhe might conceal her Letters: But in ſhort, having found nothing, he made reflexion, that the Window was open, and that perhaps ſome body, having been hid in this Cloſet, had made his Eſcape that way. He had not dreamt in the leaſt of this before: So true it is, that when a Perſon is in Anger, they are but little guilty of reaſoning. This had made him ask the Gardiner, whether he had ſeen any thing;

But this Man having anſwer'd him in the Negative, he was vex'd that he had made ſuch an Hurricane for nothing. It is not neceſſary that I ſay, how that the *Sultana* was in a terrible allarum while all this paſs'd; it is eaſie to be imagined. She repreſented to her ſelf at each inſtant, how ſhe had ſeen Two Perſons ſtrangled in her Preſence, and only expected the moment that the ſame thing ſhould befal her, as well as *Ibrahim*. But at length, ſeeing that the thing had turned ſo happily for her, ſhe began to be haughty again, and told the *Grand Signior*, with an Accent that rather ſpoke the Miſtreſs than the Slave: *That the Condition of thoſe that are deſtin'd to enter the* Serraglio, *was a ſtrange thing; That they were expoſed to his Caprices, and to his Jealouſie: That Two poor Wretches had newly periſh'd in her ſight, whoſe Blood was every moment in her Mind: That this was not the firſt time ſhe had endured his*

his peevish Humour: That it would be a greater kindness to kill her outright, than thus put her to a lingring Death: That in a Word, if he was resolv'd ever to treat her in this manner, she would rather make away with her self than suffer it.

The *Sultan* had diminish'd much of his Anger, when he had found nothing in the Closet. Thus being wholly disposed to make her satisfaction: *I am too blame, Madam,* he said to her, *I own it: but in short, blame your self, if I have push'd my Jealousie so far: A Word said timely would have freed me out of this Extremity: but you took delight in augmenting my Suspicions; and you, doubtless, did it to see, whether I really lov'd you. You know that Jealousie is inseparable from true Love: You were not content with mine, it ever having been sedate and calm: But why put ye me to this Test, you that know 'tis you I only love, and that for your sake I should be ever*

capable of quitting my Empire?

A ready way to a Reconciliation, was certainly such words as these, coming out of the Mouth of so great a Monarch; and *Zelinda* being not altogether so fierce as she might have been, if she had found her self innocent, quickly clos'd with it. Things having pass'd in this manner, the *Grand Signior*, after having spent an Hour, or thereabouts, in an Entertainment all full of Affection on his part, and all full of Artifice on *Zelinda*'s, propos'd to her to go walk in the Garden. As she could not imagine any thing else, but that *Ibrahim* was there, she did what she could to divert him from this Resolution. Nevertheless, seeing that he persisted therein, she durst no longer oppose it, for fear that a longer Refusal might make him suspect something. They took several Turns in a cover'd Alley, and which was very pleasant; but the *Sultan* being weary of walk-

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ing there, he propos'd to her the going into a Grove, that was the whole Ornament of that place. The ſame Reaſon that had oblig'd her to decline coming down into the Garden, ſet her a ſtudying to contrive ſome Excuſe to avoid that Walk. But the *Sultan* taking her by the Hand, hall'd her along, as a Man may ſay, in ſpight of her teeth. She would not ſtand upon any further Entreaty; and having made way into the thickeſt of the Wood, the *Sultana* rely'd upon the Fancy ſhe had, that if *Ibrahim* ſhould by Chance be there, he would take care to hide himſelf; when ſhe perceiv'd a Man ſtealing acroſs the Grove, ſhe did not doubt but that it was he, and imagin'd her ſelf abſolutely ruin'd. And indeed this Object, which the *Grand Signior* had perceived as well as ſhe, having reviv'd his Jealouſie, he quitted her ſurlily, to run after the Spark. In that Inſtant the *Sultana*

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fell into a Swoon; and if by chance the *Sultan* had come presently back, there needed nothing else to convince him of her Infidelity. But he was so taken up with his Pursuit, that though his whole Empire were at stake, it is to be thought it would not have diverted him. The Man being a good Runner, made him take several Turns before he could overtake him; but, as ill luck would have it, his Cloaths catching upon a Palisado, the *Sultan*, who follow'd him close, got up to him before he could get loose. *Thou shalt die, thou Wretch*, said he, laying hold of him, *but of so cruel a Punishment, as shall detain all those that might, like thee, be capable of corrupting the Fidelity of the* Sultana's. *The Ungrateful Woman shall also perish*, added he; *And though I should love her still more tenderly than I do, which nevertheless is impossible, I should chuse much rather to die my self than pardon her.*

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The Man was ſo ſeiz'd with Fear, to ſee that it was the *Sultan* himſelf that had ſtopp'd him, that he was as a Man that had loſt all manner of Knowledge. Wherefore he ſuffer'd himſelf to be led on, without making any reſiſtance, or ſo much as ſaying a Word. Now this was exactly the way to confirm the *Sultan* in his Suſpicions. It is impoſſible to expreſs to what a Degree his Anger proceeded; and after having put this Man again into the Hands of the Eunuchs of the *Serraglio*, he commanded them to carry him into *Sultana Zelinda*'s Apartment, and to attend his Orders there. After this, returning back, and after having ſought out the Perſon he thought he now hated much more than he had ever loved her, he found her in the ſame place where he left her.

She was recovered from the Swoon ſhe fell into; but ſhe was in ſuch a piteous Condition, that

ſhe

ſhe might be ſaid to be rather dead than alive. The manner of the *Sultan*'s accoſting her, was the way to put her into a greater Diſorder. *Thou hadſt Reaſon a while ago*, ſaid he to her, *to tell me, that thou wert very unhappy, in being bound to ſuffer my peeviſh Humours. Perfidious, faithleſs Woman, I have at length in my hands, he that robs me of thy Heart, and within a moment I am going to give him his due deſerts. I ought already to have ſacrificed him to my Reſentment; but I will have thee to know, that if I have deferred his puniſhment, 'tis only that thou maiſt ſee him expire thy ſelf under the moſt cruel Torments. I ſhall ſpare thee no more than he: And ſince thou haſt had ſo much Pleaſure in preferring that miſerable Wretch to me, thou muſt alſo go and keep him company in the other World.*

At theſe Reproaches the *Sultana* fell again into a Swoon; and as the *Grand Signior* had call'd his Attend-

ants

ants of *Eunuchs* about him, he order'd them to carry her into her Apartment. There they threw her upon her Bed, and while they did what they could to bring her to her self, he sent for Executioners, that so as soon as she had open'd her Eyes, he might before her Face put to Death the Man he had taken Prisoner. This Man, who had appeared so dejected at the time he was laid hold of, had mightily chang'd his form. He was prepared for all the *Grand Signior* should cause to be done to him, with a wonderful Courage: Wherefore, making a generous Contempt of Death; *Why dost thou tarry*, said he to him, *to bereave me of Life? Know, that it is ungrateful to me, since thou hast robb'd me of what could make me love it. I love the* Sultana, *it is true; And since it is a Capital Crime in such a Barbarous Nation as thine, I would have thee know, that this, instead of troubling me, is the most ac-*

ceptable

ceptable thing I could have met withal.

These Words put the *Sultan* into such an Excess of Rage, that he drew his Sword to sacrifice him to his Resentment; But at the time he was going to run it through his Body, coming to make Reflexion, that he would come off at too cheap a rate; *No*, said he to him, *I will not follow the Dictates of my Anger; And I plainly perceive, that thou only seekest to animate me, to escape the Torments I design for thee. Arm thy self with a true Constancy, instead of the bare Appearances thou now shewest us. It is seasonable for thee, I assure thee; and never hadst thou more need of it.* And indeed, the Executioners were just ready; and if they began not their Work, the Reason was, that the pitiless *Sultan* would needs feed *Zelinda*'s Eyes with this fatal Spectacle. He gave Order for that purpose, that she should be immediately brought to her self again

by

by the means of Remedies: And through the impatience he was in of wrecking his Revenge, he was ſeen to run where ſhe was, hoping that his Preſence would give more Vertue to the Remedies. But ſeeing that this had no effect as yet, he return'd again to that Wretch, whom he endeavoured to overwhelm with New Reproaches. *For all this ſtaying,* he ſaid to him, *thou ſhalt ſuffer nevertheleſs; And if I hold theſe Executioners hands, it is only becauſe I mean, that the* Sultana *ſhall be her ſelf an Eye-witneſs of thy Puniſhments. Her Fear for the Torments I am preparing for her her ſelf, had made her fall into a Swoon, out of which they have much a-do to fetch her; but in ſhort, this will laſt but little longer, and you ſhall quickly ſee an end on't.*

Thou think'ſt this is an horrible wrecking of me, cry'd this Unhappy Priſoner, *in ſaying all thou ſaiſt to me: but I would have thee to know,*

that

that thou canſt not oblige me more. How! is it poſſible that the Sultana *ſhould think of me, and ſhe, whom I have ever found cruel in the time that I might believe that ſhe opened her Eyes to the Propoſition I made her of marrying her, ſhould be propitious to me now, that ſhe ſees me in thy Hands, and juſt ready to periſh for having loved her too much. No, I have no longer any regret to die, if thou telleſt me true; And though I had already comforted my ſelf after all the misfortunes that perſecute me ſince I ſaw her, it is now quite an other thing, that I know ſhe yields to ſo many illuſtrious Marks that I have given her of my Affection. Let her only come and ſpeak one word to me with her lovely Mouth, and after that do the worſt thou canſt. I deſie thee to get one bare Word from me that may expreſs any impatience; nay, and provided, that I have but the pleaſure of ſeeing her once again, I ſhall be but over-well contented.*

This

This Excess of Love put the *Sultan* into a Rage, as thinking this unfortunate Creature did only say, he was unhappy in his Mistress, to hinder his Resentment from falling upon him. Wherefore, to let him see, that he did not so easily credit him; *We shall see in a moment*, said he to him, *whether we are able to humble this Pride, and whether by the means of Torments we can force the Truth from thee.* Just as he had utter'd these words, he had notice brought him, that the *Sultana* was come again to her Sences. And as each Moment was a Year to him, as I may say, so hot was he upon his Revenge: *Bring that ungrateful Woman hither*, he answer'd, *and let us see whether we can find out any thing severe enough to punish her. Provided that thy Vengeance falls only upon me*, reply'd the unfortunate Prisoner, *thou needest only to satisfie thy self; and I tell thee once again, I shall have sufficient Constancy,*

stancy, not to utter one sole Complaint.

The *Grand Signior* did not vouchsafe to answer him any longer; and casting his Eyes that way the *Sultana* was to come, he had no sooner perceived her, but that using his Tongue again; *Come near, Perfidious Woman,* said he to her, *and after having render'd thy self so unworthy of the Honour I did thee, come and view the Torments that are prepared for those that dare to sully the Bed of the* Ottoman *Emperors. This is a Capital Crime among all Nations; but know, that it is much greater here than elsewhere. Other Princes do not chuse Women, but through reason of State; and very often they do not love them; but for my part, I love thee tenderly; and it was on that account that I had preferr'd thee to an infinite number of others, that would have thought themselves honoured by my Choice, and who would have been favourable to me,*

me, though it were only in gratitude for the Favours I had rais'd them to.

Ought not this Obligation to produce the like Sentiments in thee? But what do I say! Wert thou not obliged to it by a more engaging Sentiment than this? Oughtſt thou not to anſwer to my Love, whereof I give thee ſo many inſtances; and for a reward of which, thou would'ſt now give me my Death?

As the *Sultan* had put himſelf between the Priſoner and *Zelinda*, to make theſe Reproaches, they could not ſee each other: but ſtirring from his place, the Priſoner, who was at watch to ſee a Perſon he infinitely lov'd, and for whoſe ſake he had expos'd himſelf to ſo great a danger; had no ſooner view'd *Zelinda*, but that turning towards the *Sultan*; *With what falſe hopes haſt thou fed me*, he ſaid to him, *and after having made me expect to ſee the Perſon for whoſe*

ſake

sake I came so far, must thou insult me to that degree, as to shew me an unknown Face, instead of that which is so well engraven in my Heart, that I can never forget it?

Hitherto *Zelinda* had had her Eyes down upon the Ground, as a Person that found her self Culpable, and who expected every moment to be convicted. For she had so fix'd it in her Head, that it was *Ibrahim* whom the *Grand Signior* had taken, as that she did no longer doubt of it. But finding by the Tone of his Voice, how far he was mistaken, she interpos'd with her Tongue, and thereby hinder'd the *Grand Signior* from speaking, tho he had already his Mouth open to answer the Prisoner. She address'd her Discourse to the *Sultan*, and did it in these Terms: *It is so dolorous a thing to me, Sir, to see my self so unjustly accus'd; and my Grief must have very much deceiv'd me, that I now find my self alive.*

And

And it is in this, that I am oblig'd to jump in an Accord with what People say of our Sex; namely, that only Men die of Grief, and that for our parts, we live by't. God keep me, however, from it, and after the injustice that you do me, if I am so unhappy, as not to sink under my Griefs, I know the Means to free me all of the sudden. Yes, I will my self stab my own Bosom, added she; *And all that I require of God, and my Great Prophet, is, that you may have eternally a Regret for the sad Extremity you have reduc'd me to.*

The *Grand Signior*, who look'd upon both their Discourses as Trifles, as suspecting them of Intelligence, the better to deceive him: *Pish, to others, Madam,* said he to her; *for I am not so easily impos'd upon. We shall presently make that Wretch sing an other Tune*; and turning at the same time towards the Executioners; *Come,* said he to them, *Employ your whole industry to force*

the

the Truth out of his Mouth. That is not neceſſary, this unfortunate Man anſwer'd, with a firm and vigorous Voice; *and I ſhall tell it thee plainly, without thy needing their Miniſtry. I do not ſay this to thee*, added he, *that I might eſcape the Torments that thou art preparing for me: I know, that thou ought'ſt to ſatisfie thy Cruelty. A Man that deſpiſes Death, has nothing to fear; And all that I can tell thee, is, that if I could be reveng'd on the* Aga *of the* Janizaries, *and ſee her once again I love, I ſhould die the moſt contented of all Men. But thou denieſt me the One, and as for the Other, it was impoſſible for me to ſucceed in the Projects I had laid, it being the Will of Deſtiny, that this* Aga, *whom I had ſo much Reaſon to hate, was no longer here when I arriv'd. And what has the* Aga *done to thee*, the *Sultan* reparty'd, *that thou ſhould'ſt have that inveteracy againſt him? He has rob'd me of my Miſtreſs*, this Unfortunate

fortunate Prisoner answer'd; *And what makes me hate him still the more, is, that he carried her away contrary to Good Faith, and as a Thief as he is. I will inform thee of that Circumstance*, added he, *if thou art ignorant of it; And thou must know, that her Mother going to entreat him to afford her Passage in his Ship, to come hither, to seek out a Son that had been a long while in these Parts; and this lovely Virgin having accompany'd her on the day of her departure, to give her her farewell, he weigh'd Anchor, without being affected either by her Cries or her Tears. I have been since told*, added he, *that he has delivered her into thy Hands; And it was to see her once again, that I pass'd o're the Garden-Walls, where thou found'st me. This is the whole Naked Truth, since thou wilt needs know it. But let not this hinder thee from doing all that thou hast resolv'd on: I did not tell it thee, to avert the Punishments with which*

thou haſt menac'd me; And once a-gain, thoſe that do not fear Death, do little fear all that can uſher it in.

Never was Man ſo out of Countenance as the *Sultan*, when he heard him talk in this manner: For in fine, as a body cannot feign ſo well, but that it may plainly be ſeen when a Perſon lies, it is in like manner eaſie to know when he ſpeaks the Truth. However, that he might not paſs for too credulous a Man, he ſent for the other *Sultana*; and when ſhe was come into the Anti-chamber, he went out to meet her, and queſtion her. And indeed, he was reſolved to be Cully to neither of them; and though he no longer loved this latter, yet was he not without Jealouſie. The *Sultana*, little dreaming of what paſs'd, ſeeing him coming, advanc'd with a ſmiling Countenance, asking him from whence ſhe derived her great Felicity, to ſee her ſelf ſent for

for to a place where he was ſeldom us'd to think of her. But the *Sultan*, far from anſwering, as ſhe expected, to ſo handſom a Compliment; *Forbear, Madam*, ſaid he to her, *going about to abuſe me any longer: I am inform'd of your Demeanor; and if I ſend for you hither, it is only to puniſh you, as you deſerve.* The *Sultana* was much ſurprized at theſe Words. Nevertheleſs, as ſhe knew her ſelf innocent, and that People when ſo, are never at ſuch a loſs as when they have ſomething upon their Conſcience: *My Life, Sir, is in your Hands*, ſhe anſwer'd him; *but I think you too juſt to go about to deprive me of it, without firſt telling me wherein I may have offended you. For the more I examine my ſelf, the leſs can I gueſs it; and unleſs you acquaint me with it your ſelf, I ſhall remain all my Life long without knowing it.*

These Words were said with a certain Air, that made the *Sultan* know that she was innocent. Nevertheless, being willing that she should fully justifie her self, *How, Madam!* he renewed, *d'ye call this nothing, to have an other Lover than me; the appointing him Assignations; And after having been rais'd to the glorious Rank of* Sultana, *to allow a Slave to share the Favours you have granted me?* These Reproaches made a shift to put the *Sultana* into the utmost Surprize: Nevertheless, her Innocence continuing to give her assurance: *These Words, Sir,* she answer'd him, *would not deserve my puzzling my Head in the least with them, if they came to me from any other than you: but since they depart from a Mouth I must ever revere, whatever it may utter against me, I have nothing to answer, but that you would let me see those that dare to accuse me, and I will make their Calumny so clearly known to you, that I do*

not

not believe you will any longer ſuſpect me. This is juſt, Madam, the *Sultan* reply'd to her, he being ſtill more and more perſwaded of her Innocency; and making her paſs at the ſame time into the Chamber where the Man was I have menti-on'd, ſhe was in a ſtrange ſurprize when ſhe had caſt her Eyes upon him, and had already open'd her Mouth, to expreſs her Wonder to the *Sultan*, when this Man prevent-ed her. *There's ſhe,* cry'd he, *ſhe I came ſo far to ſeek: And how could I miſs of knowing her again, after having imprinted her ſo deeply in my Heart? But alas! I plainly per-ceive ſhe is no more propitious to me than ſhe was in our own Country; ſhe already colours for Anger: And ſince it is impoſſible for me to live without loving her, you will do me a kindneſs,* Sultan, *in taking away my Life, which in my Circumſtances, cannot be other-wiſe than ungrateful to me.*

Sultana Zelinda, after having been in ſo terrible a Fright, triumph'd in her mind to ſee her ſelf delivered from it with ſo much advantage; And as ſhe was not without Jealouſie of her Rival; *From whence comes it, Sir*, ſaid ſhe to the *Sultan, that you have us'd me ſo very ill, upon a bare ſuſpicion, and that now that things are made out, your Anger is cool'd to a degree, that you ſeem to be inſenſible? Why are not you curious to know whether you have been told All? Perchance that this Wretch has ſtill a Deſign upon me. What has been newly told you, might be invented on purpoſe to make your Reſentment fall upon an other, and to ſkreen me from your Anger. Lovers have Fences that are not always found out. And when one has the Soveraign Power in Hand, as you have, methinks that good ſence requires, that you ſhould not thus ſtop at the half way of your Revenge. Command theſe Executioners to do*

their Duty, and you will perhaps discover things which you did not expect.

Now if we make Reflection on this Discourse, nothing is more malicious. It was an insinuating into the *Grand Signior*, that the other *Sultana* was capable of deceiving him; and that in a word, this Unfortunate Wretch corresponded with her. But as he was naturally far from the Cruelty of his Predecessors, I mean, when he had no Cause; for upon the least suspicion he was like them; and what I have above related is a good Testimony of it, as I say, he fancy'd he was sufficiently inform'd, as not to need to go any further: *Cease, Madam,* said he, *a Discourse that is so very much out of season. If I have given but a moment ago Marks of my Cruelty, you ought only to impute it to my Jealousie; and far from being in Anger at it, you ought to have been vex'd if I had not done*

it, ſince Tranquility, upon theſe ſort of Matters, is a ſign of but little Love.

Theſe Words were as many Stabs with a Ponyard, into the other *Sultana's* Boſome, who ſaw, that notwithſtanding ſhe recover'd her Health, the *Grand Signior* made ſo little account of her, that even in her own Preſence, he did not ſtick to ſay ſoft and kind things to her Rival. However, as Peoples Demeanor towards theſe Emperors, is not the ſame with that to other Perſons, ſhe was oblig'd to ſwallow her Affliction, which *Sultana Zelinda* having perceiv'd, ſhe did further all ſhe could to inſult her. At the laſt, being no longer able to bear with ſo many Inſtances of Contempt from her, and from the *Grand Signior* too; *I joyn my Entreaties, Sir,* ſaid ſhe to the *Sultan, to thoſe of* Zelinda, *that you would revenge the injury that this Wretch has done to you, and of which I am*

as

as culpable as he, since I must needs tell you the Truth. Yes, if he had not known he was beloved, he would not have expoſed himſelf to ſo great a danger. I can no longer live without him, juſt as he was no longer able to live without me; and the greateſt kindneſs that you can do to us Both, is to bereave us of our Lives, that are equally burdenſome to us Both, ſince that the Aga has ſo cruelly parted us.

If the *Grand Signior* was ſurprized to hear this Diſcourſe, he ſhe pointed at in it was ſtill more than he. *Ah! Madam*, ſaid he to her, *would to God, that what you have now ſaid was true, and that I, on that condition, were deſtin'd to endure all that theſe infamous Executioners can invent moſt cruel againſt me. But to my Misfortune, you are but too cruel to me; and what ſtill plunges me into a further deſpondency, is that I plainly perceive with what Spirit you are animated at preſent. You lay to Heart,*

that the Grand Signior *says kind things to an other in your presence; And the injustice of my Fate, is such, as that not content with all the Cruelties that you have exercised against me, to compleat my misery, you add what I could never have expected.*

I thought that Virtue was the Rule of All your Actions; but by what I perceive, you are very much a stranger to it. And this is what ought to comfort me in my present Condition, since that the loss I have is not so great as I imagin'd it. Yes, Sultan, *'tis out of Jealousie that she goes about to provoke you; And if I had still sufficient Power to acquaint thee what her Cruelty was to me, thou would'st see, that I am so far from ever having been happy, that my Misfortune has even surpassed that of the most Unfortunate.*

As much as *Sultana Zelinda* had been transported with joy at her Rival's Discourse, whom she thought ruin'd in the *Grand Signior's* Good Opi-

Opinion, after her Confession; so much was that of this Man unpleasant to her. Wherefore, that she might not give the *Grand Signior* time to make Reflexion upon it; *D'ye not see, Sir, that the Excess of his Love sets him upon saving his Mistress at the Expence of his own Life. Now are Torments and Tortures seasonable; and I am very much deceived, if you do not find out many things.* The *Sultan* had almost forgot the Love he had had for the *Sultana* while that she had been indisposed: but the Words of this Man having made him return into himself; *It is not about Business, Madam,* said he to *Zelinda, to teach me what I have to do. I love the* Sultana *well enough to be willing this Mystery should be unravelled; And I shall take care to revenge her Love, or reward it, according as it shall prove guilty or innocent. But there are ways of informing one's self, which though they be less cruel the one than*

other,

other, are nevertheless equally certain. It is to those of Mildness that I am very willing to have recourse: And who knows not, that very often, instead of extorting a Truth by the means of Tortures, the miserable are often oblig'd to say all they have not done, so to free themselves from the Excess of the Torments they are made to suffer. At these Words he sent *Ibrahim*'s Sister back into her Apartment; commanding, that no body should speak to her till farther Order: Then questioning her Lover, he would needs have of him a particular Account of his Passion. And this Man, who had made the *Sultana* a Thousand Reproaches when she went out, but nevertheless lov'd her beyond expression; thinking, that the only means to save her, was to tell the *Sultan* the Truth, related his History to him. And as it is full of a World of Incidents, I am per-

perſwaded the Reader will not be ſorry that I impart it to him. And here you ſhall have it Word for Word as he told it to the *Grand Signior*, without my changing the leaſt thing in it.

THE

THE HISTORY OF *Rivelli* and *Lidiana.*

'I Shall not trifle away time, Sir, 'in giving you a long account of my Birth, nor of 'the *Sultana*'s: And to what 'purpose would it be for me to tell 'you any thing to the advantage 'of our Extraction, since no regard 'is had to that in your Empire? I 'will tell you nevertheless by the 'by, that we are both Natives of 'a Town, which is but Two *Italian* Miles distant from that where

'the

'the *Aga* plaid his Prank: That our 'Relations are the most eminent for 'Estate and Quality in that Place: 'That for my part I had all imagina- 'ble Reason to be satisfy'd with For- 'tune, if Love had not come a- 'cross, and robb'd me of my Re- 'pose. At Fifteen Years old my 'Father sent me to *Venice*, to serve 'the Re-publick in its Armies, 'where, in his time, he had had 'considerable Employs; and Three 'Years after I was listed under its 'Colours, the Senate sent me Or- 'der to return into the City, and 'gave me a Regiment. During the 'abode I made there, I lead the 'same Life which People of Eigh- 'teen Years of Age do commonly 'lead, and who want no Money: 'That is to say, that being natural- 'ly prone to Love, I saw an infinite 'number of Courtezans, which that 'Town is better stock'd with than 'any other in the Universe. At 'length, growing weary of that

'Life,

'Life, which, in Truth, is unworthy of an Honeſt Man, I abſtain'd 'from returning into that Place of 'Debauchery, which did in no 'wiſe pleaſe thoſe that had taſted of 'my Liberality; and eſpecially a 'certain Woman, whoſe Miniſtry I 'had made uſe of in my amorous 'Expeditions. I was daily perſecu-'ted by her; ſhe every day ſhew'd 'me the Picture of ſome new Cour-'tezan; and I own, that among 'them there were ſome of a won-'derful Beauty, and for whom a 'Man would have been capable of 'doing all things, if their Beauty 'had been accompany'd with Wiſ-'dom. But as I was utterly pawl'd 'by the eaſineſs of theſe ſorts of 'Conqueſts, or rather, I knew 'they were common to me with 'the firſt Comer, I perſiſted in 'the Reſolution I had taken of re-'maining Diſcreet. This almoſt 'madded this Woman; and I was 'for ſome time without hearing of 'her:

'her: But at the Months end I saw 'her come into my Room with a 'satisfy'd Countenance; and ha-'ving desired me to send my Ser-'vants out; *And this*, said she to 'me, shewing me the finest Picture 'I had seen in all my Life, *will you 'refuse it?* *No*, said I to her, *I own 'it*, after having attentively view'd 'the Pourtraict; *And I agree, if the 'Original be conformable to the Copy, 'there is nothing but what you may 'expect from my Liberality.* *I do be-'lieve it*, she answer'd me; *And if 'you say this to me now, what will you 'say, when I shall have told you, that 'this is the Picture of* Madamoiselle Lidiana, *a Person whose Name can-'not be unknown to you, no less than 'her Birth and Fortune.* I was sur-'prized at these Words; and must tell you, Sir, that this Name is that 'of the *Sultana* you have in your 'Hands; who being of the most 'considerable Birth in our Countrey, 'was as familiar to me as my own.

'For

'For my part, I am called *Rivelli*: 'And I am very willing to acquaint 'you with both our Names, that 'Circumstance being necessary to 'the Sequel of my Discourse.

'My Surprize was not so great, 'but that I presently re-collected 'my self out of it; and still holding 'my Eyes fix'd upon that Picture; '*Is it possible*, said I to this Woman, '*that you can put the Original into my 'Hands?* *Doubtless*, answer'd she 'me; *And provided you do what is 'requisite for that purpose, you will 'quickly see the Accomplishment of my 'Promises.* I thought that this 'Woman, who was self-interested, 'as are commonly all those of her 'Profession, meant, that I must be 'liberal: Wherefore taking out my 'Purse at the same time, I gave it 'her, with a Promise, that it should 'be only a Sample of my Gratuities. 'In fine, being enflam'd more than 'I can represent to you, I told her, 'that I pretended not to wait any

'longer

'longer than Night, to see whether 'she was a Woman of her Word: 'Whereupon she told me, that I 'was too hot upon the Spur; and 'that the Conquest she propos'd to 'me, was none of those that are at-'chieved in so short a time. Nay, 'she added, that the Person being 'in nothing inferior to me, as I know 'very well my self, she did not pre-'tend to grant me any Favour that 'could redound to her Prejudice: 'That this was what she had to tell 'me on her behalf; and that if I 'was an Honest Man, and would 'think of marrying her, that then it 'should be my own fault, if I was not 'happy.

'This Complement, far from dis-'pleasing me, was extreamly accept-'able to me. There wanted no-'thing to my budding Passion, but a 'little Esteem, to render it such as it 'ought to be, that it might be want-'ing in nothing. Thus there being 'nothing more now to stop the Pro-

'gress

'greſs of it, *Yes*, I ſaid to her, a 'Thouſand times more enflamed 'than before, *I accept of theſe Conditions; and I charge you to tell her, 'that I ſhall never enfringe them.* In 'uttering theſe Words, I ſnatch'd 'the Picture from her, and kiſs'd it 'with ſo much tranſport, that a body muſt have been very blind, as 'not to perceive that I was paſſionately in Love. After a thouſand 'Follies of this nature, and which 'would be too long to relate: *But 'tell me*, I ſaid to her once again, *is 'it really true, that ſhe is as beauteous 'as her Picture? And may I flatter 'my ſelf, that my Vows may with her 'meet with a kind Reception? I warrant ye both*, ſhe reply'd to me: *'And if you would have me tell you 'things as they are, I come hither only by her Order. You may know this 'from her when you pleaſe. And to 'ſhew you, that I tell you nothing but 'the Truth, be you a while hence, at 'her going out of her Houſe to the*

'*Church:*

'*Church*: *She is lodg'd near the* '*Church of St.* Mark: *Follow her,* '*and when she comes near the Holy* '*Water, speak something to her, and* '*you will see in what manner she will* '*answer you.*

'These Words were so positive, 'that I had not the least room left 'for doubt, but that she spoke the 'Truth to me. Thus abandoning 'my self to joy, I confirm'd the 'Promises I had made her, that she 'should not lose her Pains: After 'which I accepted of the Expedient 'she propos'd to me, that I might 'fully secure my happiness to my 'self. Now you must know, that 'this Woman did really speak the 'Truth; and that at that time I was 'not indifferent to the beautiful *Li-* '*diana.* But I must inform you, '*Celsitude* how this came to pass. 'This Woman seeing that she lost 'all her Gains of me, by the Reso- 'lution I had taken, to be no 'longer debauched: And having

'there-

'thereby loſt her beſt Cuſtomer; 'had been cudgelling her Brains, to 'contrive the means of getting my 'Favour again. As ſhe had ſeen me 'very ſenſible for the Fair Sex, ſhe 'fancy'd there was no other Expedi-'ent for her, than to bait me with 'this Temptation. Nevertheleſs; 'having ſeen me pawl'd by all the '*Courtizans*, ſhe ſought out one that 'was no Miſs, but who might be-'come one by her way of Manage-'ment. As ſhe was attentive to this 'Jeaſt, ſhe ſaw *Lidiana*, whoſe raviſh-'ing Beauty offer'd her the Fetter 'wherewithal ſhe ſought to enſnare 'my Liberty. She inform'd her ſelf 'carefully, who ſhe was, how ſhe had 'been brought up, whether ſhe was 'giddy-headed, and well diſpoſed to 'the World; and in fine, whether 'her Mother, in whoſe Company 'ſhe was come, had a ſtrict Eye o-'ver her: But all that ſhe was told, 'having inform'd her, that ſhe had 'fed her ſelf with hopes, which ſhe

'was

'was far from seeing effected; she 'took other Measures, and such as I 'am going to re-count to your *Cast-* '*tude.*

'Having acquainted her with the 'Name of the Town where I was 'born, and she knowing *Lidiana* to 'be of the same Place, our Birth, 'our Age; and in short, all that 'People seek to make a Match seem-'ing suitable to her, between us 'Two, she found the Means to get 'to the Speech of this lovely Per-'son; and after having told her, 'who I was, and that I was extream-'ly taken with her Beauty and Me-'rit, though I had never seen her, 'she us'd her Perswasions so effectu-'ally, that she inspir'd her with the 'Curiosity to see me. *Lidiana* gi-'ving Credit to all she said to her, 'made her swear, that she would 'not give me intimation of it, 'which the other was very glad of, 'as having not yet discours'd me up-'on the Matter, and by Conse-

'quence,

'quence, fearing that I might have 'made some false step, that might 'have discovered her Cheat. The 'Place she appointed her to see me 'in, was the Church of Saint *Mark*, 'whither I commonly went to *Mass*; 'and there, without dreaming of it 'in the least, I was contemplated by '*Lidiana*'s fair Eyes, to whom I 'could not make Returns, she be-'ing mobb'd up, after the Mode of '*Italy*, in a great Veil, that rob-'bed me of the sight of her. I ap-'pear'd to her the same as the Wo-'man had describ'd me to her; and 'though it was very advantageously 'to me, I may, without Vanity, 'say, that I did not belye the E-'steem she had conceived upon the '*Go-between*'s Relation.

'This interview being made in 'this manner, *Lidiana* said a thou-'sand things to her in my favour: 'And after several Discourses, of 'which I was ever the Subject; and 'wherein the Woman did not for-

'get

'get to assure her, that I daily be-
'came more and more in Love, and
'that I continued in the Design of
'marrying her; she brought her at
'length to consent to give her her
'Picture; and it was the same she
'brought me. Things being in so
'fair a way, without it's having cost
'me either Cares or Pains, which
'however is seldom seen in such an
'Occasion as this. I had no longer any
'other disquiet, than the longing to
'see so fair an Original. It was ea-
'sie for our Go-between to procure
'me this satisfaction; and after what
'she had done, she needed only to
'speak, to effect that. It was still in
'a Church where this interview was
'made; and *Lidiana* seeing that I
'did not take my Eyes from off her,
'this confirm'd her still in all that
'had been told her; and she lift up
'slily her Veil, and gave me
'sufficient leisure to contemplate
'her; so as to tell my self a thou-
'sand times, that I had seen nothing

'in all my Life that came near her 'Beauty.

'To tell you, that after this, I had 'no longer any Repose, till such 'time as that I had spoken to her, is 'to tell you nothing new. Who-'ever has ever been in love, knows, 'that Lovers require something 'more real than sight. Nevertheless, it was a Difficulty, and as the Mode of *Italy* is, that Maidens do 'not render any Visit, so inconvenient a Custom did not allow me to 'have a plenary satisfaction in that 'point. This Faiseur advis'd the using of Stratagems. But though I 'was passionately in Love, and that 'the Property of Love is to inspire 'Wit, I must needs own to my own 'Confusion, that I was endebted to our *Go-between* for our contentment. This Woman having prudently judg'd, that we could never 'do any thing, unless we had some 'Servant to be a Confident in the 'Concern, had wriggled a Wait-

'ing-

ing Gentlewoman into the Family, of whom the Mother had occasion: She daily gave *Lidiana* one Letter or other that I had written to her, and very often two or three, instead of one. She likewise conveyed her Answers to me: And this Petty Commerce was a mighty Element to both of us. Now our *Go-between* having so good a string to her Bow, she bid this Maid to tell *Lidiana*, that she should make semblance of falling all of the sudden into a Swoon, when that the Mother was gone abroad, which *Lidiana* having accordingly done, this Maid went out, as if it were to fetch a *Chyrurgeon*, to bleed her; and as I had notice of the Mystery, I staid hard by in a Decent Habit. Thus was I conducted into *Lidiana*'s Chamber, where because there were some other Domesticks, she told me aloud, that she would not suffer me to blood her; and that I was too

'young for that. The Waiting-woman, with whom all things were concerted, and who had her Lesson at her fingers ends; *You say right, Madam*, she said to her; *but as it is not certain, that we shall find any other than this; and as your Lady is pressing, I am of Opinion, that he stay here till you see whether another will come.* At these words she gave the Servants Order to go seek out one; nay, and a Physician. And that they might not return too soon, she sent them to such as were lodged at the farthest end of the Town, as if they had been the most expert.

'To prevent giving of suspicion, 'I made semblance of being vex'd 'at this Preference, and would needs 'be gone; but they promis'd me, I 'should be rewarded as much as if I 'had let her Blood: And as the part 'I acted required my seeming self-'interested, I promis'd to stay upon 'these Conditions. All of them by

'this

'this means being dispatched out of 'the way, except the Waiting-Gen-'tlewoman, I threw my self at the 'Feet of *Lidiana*'s Bed, who had 'caus'd her self to be undress'd on 'purpose, the better to make her ill-'ness thought to be real; and I not 'only confirm'd to her, what our 'Go-between had told her on my 'part, but I also vow'd to her an e-'ternal Love. She seem'd to be af-'fected with all these Assurances; 'and as there is nothing that more 're-doubles the Affection, than the 'being possess'd, that she for whom 'one sighs, has a grateful sense of it, 'it is impossible to express to what 'a Degree I found my self enfla-'med.

'I cannot tell exactly how long I 'staid with her; but I dare affirm, 'that though, as I have said, the 'Lodgings of those Persons we sent 'for, were a mighty way off, they ne-'vertheless came when I thought 'they must needs be still a long time

'before they could return. That is 'to say, in one word, that I was not 'weary in her Company. Never- 'theless, hearing the others upon 'the Stair Case, and having nothing 'more to do there, at least, with- 'out exposing my self to the being 'discovered, I was obliged to sound 'a Retreat. The Waiting Gentle- 'woman conducted me back; and 'to make it the more believed I was 'what I really represented, she put 'the piece of Money into my Hands 'in the Presence of the other Ser- 'vants.

'That interview having pass'd in 'this manner, both our Passions 'augmented in such sort, that in an 'other Visit that was procured me by 'the like Artifice; That is to say, in 'still seeking to deceive those that 'might be concerned therein: The 'by other means, she propos'd to 'me, to demand her in Marriage of 'her Mother. I made her answer, 'That it would be but ill timing of

'our Business; and that it was ra-
'ther a thing that depended on the
'Father than on her: That hers be-
'ing far off; and as there was no pay-
'ing him this Deference, by reason
'of his Absence, we must e'en stay
'till I could have the honour to see
'him. That I would take a jour-
'ney on purpose to our Country-
'House, at my return from the Cam-
'paign, then at hand: That in this
'Expectation I should think it a
'Thousand Years long; and that
'if she doubted of it, she would
'do me a great deal of injus-
'tice.

'I know not what to attribute
'the refusal to that *Lidiana* made of
'being satisfy'd with my Reasons,
'unless that Fortune, being weary
'of favouring me, was resolved to
'play me the most cruel Prank that e-
'ver could befall a Man. But so it is,
'that she, after having urged several
'things in opposition to the Reasons
'that I gave her, I had not any qui-

'et till I had promis'd her to break
'the Matter to her Mother. I did
'ſo out of hand, to ſatisfie her ra-
'ther, than out of any hopes I had,
'that ſhe could give us ſatisfaction.
'And indeed, the Mother, after ha-
'ving receiv'd me with great Civi-
'lity, ſo far as to tell me, that no
'greater advantage could befal her
'Daughter, gave me to underſtand,
'that I ask'd her a thing that was out
'of her Power; but that ſhe would
'write concerning it to her Hus-
'band, who was particularly
'informed of my Birth, of my
'Eſtate, and of the Repute I had
'acquired in the World, to receive
'my Alliance with the ſame Joy ſhe
'did. Thereupon I entreated her
'that I might accompany her Letter
'with one of my own; and having
'declared to me, that my Requeſt
'was too juſt to be deny'd, I gave it
'into her Hands, that ſhe might en-
'cloſe it in her Pacquet.

'Li-

'*Lidiana* seeing things in this dis-
position, far from being sorry at
'the step she had made me take in
'this Matter, was over-joy'd at it,
'and advis'd me to ask to see her
'till such time as that her Father's An-
'swer came. This was my inten-
'tion, had she not mention'd
'it to me. Thus I went to pay a
'Visit on purpose to her Mother;
'but she told me, that could not be,
'without furnishing Matter of Talk
'to the World; and that if I lov'd
'her Daughter, as she was persua-
'ded I did, I would not insist upon
'that, as being bound to take more
'Care than any body of her Repu-
'tation. She urg'd to me a World
'of things to the same purpose, and
'such as were conformable to the Cu-
'stom of the Countrey, and even
'to Decency. But as a Lover is sel-
'dom well content to have such nar-
'row bounds prescribed him, I op-
'pos'd Reasons against her, but which
'seem'd so weak to this Lady, that

'She continued to refuse me what I 'required.

'Things remaining in this Posture, 'to my great Regret, I impatiently 'waited for the Father's Answer. 'In the mean while, not being able 'to be without seeing *Lidiana*, I had 'recourse to the *Garbetwean*, whom 'I was upon the point of dismissing; 'as secretly reproaching my self for 'suffering such an Affair as that to be 'manag'd by such an Hand as hers. 'But having been withheld by some 'Consideration, I was very happy 'in meeting her still to do me Ser-'vice. I went to *Lidiana*'s House 'when her Mother was not at home; 'and having shut our selves up in 'that Ladies Chamber, having with 'us only the Waiting-woman I men-'tion'd a while ago, whom we had 'for a Witness of our Actions, I 'perceiv'd a Paper behind a Glass; 'and Curiosity having set me to see 'what it was, I found it to be the 'Letter I had given her. It was just

'the

'the ſame as I had put it into her 'Hands; at which, being both of 'us ſurprized, *Lidiana* told me, that 'ſhe muſt of neceſſity have forgot-'ten it there, which I thought to be 'very probable. Nevertheleſs, be-'ing not at all ſatisfy'd with this 'Neglect, I told her, that it would 'be convenient that we put it again 'where we found it, and that ſhe 'making ſemblance of perceiving it 'when her Mother was come home, 'ſhe ſhould ask her what was the 'Reaſon ſhe had not ſent it.

'I was ſo out of Humour at this 'Adventure, and ſo eager to find 'out the Riddle of it, that I left *Li-'diana* in that very inſtant, as if my 'Departure muſt have forwarded 'her Mothers Return. *Lidiana*, 'who had no leſs impatience than I, 'ſeeing her come back, immediately 'performed what we had agreed on 'together. This Lady appear'd ex-'treamly ſurpriz'd to her: And in-'deed, ſhe fancy'd ſhe had ſent that

'Let-

'Letter, which ſhe had left by mi-
'ſtake. The thing ſeem'd ſo extra-
'ordinary to *Lidiana*, in a Concern
'of that Conſequence, that ſhe
'thought it to be an Excuſe ſhe us'd,
'and which ſhe paulm'd upon her:
'But in Truth, it was really ſo as ſhe
'ſaid: and what had been the occa-
'ſion of this Miſtake, is, that ſhe
'had ſo much Buſineſs on the day ſhe
'had written, that one thing had
'made her forget an other. How-
'ever what is extraordinary in ſuch
'an Occaſion as this, is, that though
'ſhe had thus forgot my Letter, ſhe
'had not however been wanting to
'make mention in hers of the Pro-
'poſal I had made to her; where-
'fore ſhe told *Lidiana*, that I needed
'not to be concerned; and that this
'would nevertheleſs produce its Ef-
'fect.

'*Lidiana* repeated this to me the
'firſt time that I found the occaſion
'to ſee her again; and thinking to
'comfort me mightily, by vending

'the

'the ſame Money to me with which 'ſhe had been paid, this Circum-'ſtance plung'd me into the utmoſt 'Deſpondency; *So much the worſe,* 'ſaid I to her, *if ſhe has committed* 'that Fault alſo: *And what will your* 'Father ſay, *when he ſhall ſee that I* 'demand you of your Mother, *and* 'that I do him not the leaſt Civility; 'he who is the Head of the Family, 'and whoſe Affection I only ought to 'captivate, if I mean he ſhould be 'propitious to me. *Lidiana* made a Mock of my Fears, aſſuring me, 'that her Father was not a Man of 'ſuch ſcrupulous Regards. She told 'me farther, that though he were of 'that Humour, he might be appea-'ſed, by letting him know that it was 'none of my Fault. I made a ſhew 'of believing her, becauſe I perceiv-'ved I oblig'd her in ſo doing; yet 'I could not forbear trembling ſe-'cretly, till ſuch time as that they 'heard from him: and when the 'Letters were come accordingly, it

'was

'was with a greater trembling ſtill,
'that I went to her Mothers Houſe,
'to enquire what they contained:
'But alas! I was but too good a Pro-
'phet. She ingeniouſly told me,
'that her Husband was pick'd that I
'had not accompany'd her Letter
'with one of mine. But as ſhe cer-
'tainly did cordially eſpouſe my in-
'tereſts, ſhe told me, that ſince it
'was ſhe that had committed the
'Fault, ſhe would repair it; and that
'I ſhould not trouble my Head about
'the matter.

These Promiſes had been ſome-
'thing to a Man that had been leſs
'perſwaded than I of the Capricious
'Humour of the Perſon, which I had
'heard inſtanc'd ſeveral times. I
'knew, without being particularly
'acquainted with him, that he was
'of the ſame Temper with thoſe
'Countrey ſort of Noblemen that
'will have every thing preciſely in its
'form, and a ſuperſtitious Obſerver
'of Method. All his Life long he

'had

'had been wedded to Appearances, 'without ever standing to shrive in- 'to the Truth: And what could I 'expect from a Person that pass'd for 'such in the Opinion of all People. 'My Suspicions prov'd to be but too 'real; his Wife having sent my Let- 'ter to him, and given him a fair ac- 'count how all matters went: *Pish, to others*, said he, *it's now too late: This was a convenient Match indeed, I own it: But I'le ha no Son in Law that knows not how to live, that understands not good Manners.* 'At the same time he divulg'd my 'Courtship throughout the whole 'Town; and as I had many Relati- 'ons and Friends there, I received in- 'timation from several Hands, that I 'had nothing to hope. The An- 'swer he made his Wife, was con- 'formable to what was signify'd to 'me; insomuch, that having lost 'all Hopes on that side, I went to 'see that Lady, to whom, after ha- 'ving made known how sensible I

'was

'was to this Refusal, I propos'd, that 'she would give us her Consent for 'a Private Marriage. To make her 'condescend thereunto, I told her, 'as it was Truth, that her Husband 'having found nothing to reprehend 'in me, save the Fault whereof I 'was accused, he would be oblig'd 'to be appeased, when the thing was 'once done. That she had promis'd 'me to repair the Mischief, which 'she knew very well her self to be 'the only Cause of. That thus I 'hop'd she would not disapprove of 'the Expedient I started; and that 'it was the only Remedy to my Mis-'fortune. This Lady lov'd me, and 'I cannot deny it, though indeed, 'she was the only occasion of all my 'Misfortunes: Nevertheless, she was 'frighted at my Proposal; telling 'me, that she should be ruin'd if 'such a thing should happen. That 'her Husband was a Man not only 'never to relent, but likewise to 'cause my Process to be made as a Se-

'ducer.

'ducer. *He'll not meddle, Madam,* 'I answer'd her: *And d' ye not know,* 'that we have seen People as much 'wedded as he to their Sentiments, 'that have been oblig'd to conform to 'such an Occasion?

'I told her still many things more 'to perswade her; but all that I 'could say having been to no pur-'pose, I was obliged to take other 'Measures. Those that came into 'my Head, as likely to be the most 'effectual, were to speak to *Lidiana*, 'having ask'd whom, whether she 'laid her Father's refusal to Heart? '*As much as you*, said she to me, *at* 'least; *And I think it strange, that* 'after so many instances that I have 'given you of my Esteem, you ask me 'such a Question. It is not that I 'doubt of it, Beauteous* Lidiana, *I* 'answer'd her: *And if I was willing* 'to hear you once more say, that you 'love me, it is a Token of the sensibi-'lity of my Passion: And to demand 'such Proofs of yours as may solace me

'in

'in my Misfortune. I have propos'd 'them to your Lady Mother; But as 'she more cordially espouses Conjugal 'Love than that she had given to me as 'her future Son in Law, she would not 'listen to them. I hope it will not be 'the same with you; and that having 'look'd upon me by her Order, as a 'Person that was one day to have the 'happiness of being your Husband, 'that same Conjugal Love will make 'you concur with me, to procure the 'things that are necessary for our mu-'tual satisfaction. You ought not to 'doubt on't, said she to me, provided 'you only propose such things as I may 'honestly do: for otherwise I do not 'think you expect I should obey you. 'No, my dear Lidiana, I reply'd to 'her; and you would be too blame, did 'you so much as but suspect it; And 'all the Proposal that I have to make to 'you, is only that we may marry pri-'vately.

'I pre-

'I pretended to go on, and tell
'her how things would be accom-
'modated after that she was once
'my Wife. I would further con-
'vince by good and specious Rea-
'sons, how that she could be in no
'wise prejudic'd; and that there
'were thousands daily, who by these
'means brought their Parents to rea-
'son: but instead of giving me time
'for so doing, she interrupted me
'with these Words: *I wonder*, Ri-
'velli, said she to me, *how you dare*
make Proposals of this nature to
me. I must certainly have given you
Occasion, by some Action unbecom-
ing a Virgin, which puts me so out of
countenance, that I promise you to
prevent it for the future. No, my
dear Lidiana, I answer'd her, all in
a maze at this Discourse, *you never*
did any thing that could shock De-
cency; And though I should have seen
you of a humour to do it, which God
be thank'd, is far from your inclı-
nation, my Love is of such a Na-

'ture,

'ture, that I should have quickly have
'advertiz'd you of it. I love you not
'only because you are lovely, but also
'because that you are virtuous. With
'these Sentiments can I propose any
'thing to you that may make you uneа-
'sie; And then why exclaim you so highly
'for telling you, that I wish to be your
'Husband? There are often secret
'Reasons that oblige a Lover to make
'the like Propositions. The Fortune
'of she they love, that is more consi-
'derable than their own; the Advan-
'tage they derive from an illustrious
'Alliance; and sometimes also the de-
'sire of deluding them, after having
'gratified their foolish Passion. But
'thanks be to God, I am exempt from
'all these Weaknesses; and I do not be-
'lieve that you can suspect me of them.
'I have a Fortune considerable enough,
'so as not to mind that of a Wife:
'Your Birth, all illustrious as it is,
'does not surpass mine: And as for
'my Design, I do not think there is
'any need of telling you, that it has

'on-

'only Virtue in Recommendation. If
'it were otherwise I should not have
'made the Faces you have seen me
'make. And you know, that it was
'not till after the Refusal of our Pa-
'rents, that I have been oblig'd to make
'you this Request.

I told her nothing but the Truth;
and she knew all this as well as I;
nevertheless, giving me a greater re-
pulse than before. 'If I did well,
'said she to me, after several sharp
'things that usher'd in this, I should
'never see you more after such a Pro-
'position. And though I will not deny
'that it is not Interest that has set you
'to court me, yet you must agree with
'me, that you offend me in the most
'sensible part imaginable. Is it not
'the dishonouring of me, the proposing
'a secret Marriage to me? How can
'the matter be conceal'd when People
'stand in such fair Terms? What
'can those say that take notice on't?
'And must one carry in one's Pocket
'one's Contract of Marriage, or the

'Cer-

'Certificate of the
Greek Priest, '* Papas, to oblige
'them to pass a bet-
'ter Judgment? Ah Madam! I un-
'swer'd her, can one ever pass an ill
'one of you; you that pass for an Ex-
'ample of Virtue in every Bodies Opi-
'nion? Such an Apprehension is va-
'luable for those whose Virtue appears
'doubtful; the least thing may make
'the Balance incline on the Bad side:
'Whereas those that resemble you,
'would do all things without my con-
'cerving the least Suspicion. That is
'to say, Rivelli, she retorted upon
'me, that you would insinuate to me,
'that Reputation all alone is sufficient
'for a Woman: But know from me,
'that we are so far from being bound
'to believe you, that they are those
'that have the most measures to keep.
'The Reason is, that when People
'come to discover their Concerns, the
'noise of 'em is much beyond that of
'those they call Persons of mean Vir-
'tue. Now as that you propose to me,
'must

I must of all necessity be one day detected, you will take it in good part, that to avoid such a trouble, I desire you to desist from all such Pretentions.

In spight of all the interest I had in those Words, I must own to you, that they gave me Admiration. I tacitely applauded my self for loving so virtuous a Person. Nevertheless, as I was more sensible to my Love than all the rest, I was very cautious of unbosoming these Sentiments to her. On the contrary, I still did all I could to make her lay aside hers: But not having been able to bring that about, my only care was now to sweeten her up, seeing her beyond measure insens'd. This I had much a-do to effect: but in fine, all things being reconciled by my Submission, we thus parted as good Friends as ever, after I had promis'd her nevertheless, that I would never make her the like Proposition again. How-

ever,

'ever, it was very neceſſary that I 'ſhould ſet my Mind at reſt on that 'ſide; For Two Days after her Fa-'ther arriv'd, he having run Poſt 'to ſtop the Progreſſes of my Paſſi-'on; ſo pre poſſeſs'd was he againſt 'me, on the account of the Circum-'ſtance I have before hinted. The 'firſt thing he did upon his Arrival, 'was to forbid his Daughter ever to 'think of me; and told his Wife, 'that as he judg'd by her Letters, 'that ſhe eſpous'd my intereſts, he 'commanded her abſolutely to lay 'them aſide. Theſe were the very 'Terms he made uſe of; of which 'I had notice by *Lidiana*; who aſ-'ſured me at the ſame time, that if I 'remained faithful to her, all this 'ſhould not make any impreſſion up-'on her Mind: That ſhe would ſo 'order Matters, as to make him 'come to himſelf, by a feigned con-'deſcention: And ſhe entreated me 'to ſet my Friends to work, and to 'go to work my ſelf, to gain his 'good Opinion. 'It

'It was needless in her to give me this Counsel; my interest obliged me to take it of my self. Whereupon I went to pay him a Visit as soon as he had made known his Arrival; but I was very much amaz'd to see, that though the Door was open to all People, it was shut to me. He sent me word, that he was busie in writing of Letters, and desired me to excuse him. This might have pass'd current with me, if the same Complement had been 'made to all Comers; but a Man coming at the same time to ask for him, the Porter let him in under my Nose, either that he had not the Wit to know that this might vex me; or, as is more probable, he did nothing without his Master's Order. If it had been in an other Occasion, I leave it to be guess'd how I should have taken this Affront: But the Concern of my 'Love not permitting me to manifest my Resentment, I went my

'ways without saying a word; but 'not without carrying along a pee-'vishness, as render'd me quite ano-'ther man. I returned thither on 'the morrow; and the same Com-'plement having been made me; 'or at least, the Porter having con-'triv'd an other Excuse not to let me 'see his Master, this was more than 'needed to cause me to make a noise, 'if the same Reasons that had de-'tain'd me the Evening before, 'had not still detain'd me, that 'Day.

'What shall I say? In short, I had 'the Patience to do the same thing 'for Eight Days together; at the 'end of which, seeing that it would 'be the way to make me ridiculous, 'if I went again, I chose to write to 'him; and accordingly did so in 'most submissive Terms: And the 'Tenour of this Letter was to un-'deceive him of there being any 'Fault of mine in what had pass'd; 'and to let him know that I had

'been

'been ſeveral times at his Houſe to
'diſcourſe him my ſelf on this Af-
'fair. I gave it to One of my Men,
'with Order to deliver it to him
'himſelf, and to demand his An-
'ſwer. Nevertheleſs, as I was a-
'fraid, after what had befallen me
'my ſelf, they would not introduce
'him, if he ſaid he belong'd to me, I
'forbid him ſaying of that; but
'only that he had a Letter to give
'him from one of his Friends. With
'this Precaution he was introduced
'to him: And as my Man could
'then no longer excuſe himſelf from
'telling him from whom he came;
'he had no ſooner mention'd my
'Name to him, but that he refus'd
'to take the Letter; telling him an-
'grily, That when he had been once
'offended he never pardoned. As
'I did not expect ſuch an extraordi-
'nary Complement, I had not in-
'ſtructed him what Anſwer to make
'him. Nevertheleſs, happening to
'have ſome Wit: *My Maſter is not*

'a Man, said he to him, *to be treated*
'*in this manner: And though it*
'*were true, that he had offended you,*
'*which however I shall not grant, the*
'*Submission he makes to you would be*
'*capable to sweeten any other Spirit*
'*than yours.*

'These Words, far from produ-
'cing the Effect he hoped, did on-
'ly serve to inſenſe him the more: So
'as that my Man ſeeing there was
'nothing to be done with ſuch a
'rugged Temper, thought fitting to
'come his ways. But in coming out
'of the Chamber, he left the Letter
'upon a Stool; telling him he was
'afraid I ſhould beat him if he
'brought it back. As I was impa-
'tient to know the Succeſs of this
'Embaſſy, I thought the time tedi-
'ous till he return'd: But I had ſo
'little Reaſon to be ſatisfy'd with the
'Reception that had been made him,
'that the hopes that had fed me hi-
'therto quickly vaniſht. I approv'd
'what he had done, and what he

'had

'had said: And as he was making 'an end of giving me an Account of 'all, word was brought me, that a 'Footman ask'd for me. I was sur-'prized to see *Lidiana's* Livery. '*What would'st thou, Friend?* I said 'to him hastily; already hoping for 'some better News. *It is a Letter,* 'Signior, answer'd he, *that my Ma-'ster sends you back; and he desires 'you never to take the pains of wri-'ting to him.* At these Words he 'presented me my Letter, which 'was still sealed up; And as there was 'no way for me to decline taking of 'it, I was struck with grief, in ha-'ving to do with a Person of so lit-'tle Reason.

'This was as yet but the Moiety 'of my Misfortune. This whymsi-'cal Man, guessing that I did not 'make all the Paces without finding 'some returns in his Daughter, he 'forbid her not only to have any 'Commerce with me, but he watcht 'her so narrowly, that though she

'had been of an Humour to do 'things to the prejudice of his Com-'mands, it would have been impos-'ſible for her. Nevertheleſs, he 'knew not that we had a String to 'our Bow, which it was difficult for 'him to break: This was the Waiting-'woman whom the *Go-between* had 'placed with the Mother, by whoſe 'means I receiv'd five or ſix Letters 'after one another.

'But all on the ſudden I ſaw my 'ſelf depriv'd of this Conſolation; 'and when I ask'd the Reaſon, the '*Go between* told me, that the Fa-'ther had taken away all the Ink 'and Paper that was in the Houſe; 'that there was no longer any Wri-'ting but by his Order; and not 'content with this, he had plac'd 'Maids with his own Hand about 'the Mother and Daughter, to hin-'der any one from being ſo charita-'ble as to furniſh them wherewithal 'to keep on foot our Commerce.

'All these Pre-cautions seem'd to 'me very strange in a Man I had ne-'ver offended: and all the Comfort 'I had left in so great a Misfortune 'was, that I could still write, and re-'ceive Answers by word of Mouth. 'I knew not whether they were ever 'conformable to what the *Go-be-'tween* told me: But in fine, as they 'could not be more obliging for me, 'I took thence an occasion to revive 'the Design I had interrupted for 'the Reasons already specify'd: I 'mean the proposing a-new a private 'Wedding. To oblige this Wo-'man to do her Duty well, I not 'only shew'd my self beneficial 'to her, but still made her hope for 'great rewards if she sped. This is a 'Secret very serviceable to many 'People; and there are thousands 'that thereby succeed in their De-'signs. But for my part, who am the 'most unfortunate of all men, I found 'my self Ship-wrack'd where others 'find an Harbour.

'That you may apprehend this 'Truth, I muſt tell you, Sir, That 'this Woman underſtanding her 'Trade to Perfection, lur'd me for 'ſome time without giving me any 'poſitive Anſwer. One while *Lidi-* 'ana did but weakly oppoſe my Pro- 'poſal; another while ſhe abſolute- 'ly rejected it, as the thing in the 'World the moſt injurious for her. 'At length, after having thus im- 'poſ'd upon me for Two Months; 'That is to ſay, during the whole 'time that my Employment permit- 'ted me to ſtay at *Venice*, ſhe no 'ſooner ſaw me upon the Point of 'my Departure, but ſhe told me, 'That *Lidiana* being perſwaded of 'the Honeſty of my intentions, had 'at length reſolved to content me. 'So great a piece of News, and 'which beſides was ſo little expect- 'ed by me, overwhelm'd me with 'an indicible Joy. *Is it poſſible*, I ſaid 'to this Woman, *that* Lidiana *yields* 'to my Deſires? *And how ſhall I re-*

'ver acknowledge this Obligation, for 'which I know I am only endebted to 'you? I told her thereupon, all that an *Inamorato* is capable of saying, 'when he thinks himself just ready 'to enjoy a Felicity after which he 'has long sigh'd: And not content 'with expressing my Acknowledge-'ment to her by Words, I made her 'Presents so-so considerable.

'The Joy I was in had hinder'd 'me from asking her, after what 'manner she had agreed with *Lidi-'ana* to execute our Project: but 'suspecting that I should not be 'long without asking it, she 'prevented me by questioning me 'how I pretended to go to work: '*For in short*, said she to me, *I do 'not see that you would have been the 'better by having her Consent, at least, 'if I had not smoothened a Difficul-'ty that was offer'd. You know she is 'kept in her Father's Eye, and by the 'Person he has put about her; and 'how to deceive these Two* Argus's,

'*and find the time neceſſary for you*
'*Both, before you can put your Con-*
'*cerns in a good way. Yet this is what*
'*I have done*, added ſhe, without
'giving me time to anſwer her: *For*
'*having objected this ſame Difficulty*
'*to* Lidiana, *now in diſcourſe, I let*
'*her ſee, that having but a Quarter of*
'*an Hours time, this Marriage could*
'*not be done in the Forms; but that*
'*if ſhe would truſt to a Promiſe you*
'*ſhould give her of marrying her, it*
'*was all one and the ſame thing, ſince*
'*that you lov'd her too much to deceive*
'*her.*

'This, Sir, is what this danger-
'ous Woman told me; to which
'ſhe added, that after having had a
'great deal to do before ſhe could
'bring *Lidiana* to reſolve upon this,
'ſhe gave her her Word at the long
'run; That in conſideration of this
'Promiſe ſhe would do all I pleas'd.
'That if I had the aſſurance of
'mounting by Night into her Cham-
'ber with a Rope Ladder, I ſhould

'find

'find the Window open: But that I 'was to make no Noise when I was 'once got in, because that the least 'Word was capable of discovering 'me: That I knew there was only a 'single Wall between her Mothers 'Chamber and hers; Nay, and that 'the Two Beds were very near one 'another: That therefore I ought to 'take my measures accordingly: 'That I needed only to present my 'Promise; that was my Pasport: 'That *Lidiana* would take it; after 'which she would grant me all things 'as her Husband.

'It is impossible to express the joy 'these good News gave me. That 'I had before was nothing in com-'parison of this: Not that I meant 'to abuse *Lidiana*'s facility, but be-'cause I saw my self thereby deli-'vered from the trouble of lulling 'to sleep a Father more difficult to 'deceive than a jealous man: Besides 'I had no time to lose, being upon 'the Point, as I have already said, of

'my

'my Departure. Be it as it will; 'being urg'd on by my Love, and 'this Circumstance, I desired the 'Go-between to procure the Assigna-'tion for that very Night; and to 'signifie to me, whether it would 'be accepted. Her Answer was fa-'vourable to my Impatience: She 'told me, that *Lidiana* would leave 'the Window open; and recom-'mended to me on her behalf, that 'I should not in the Sequel abuse the 'Favour she did me; as also to ob-'serve a profound Silence. I told 'her I would perform all she de-'sired, in such manner as that *Lidi-'ana* should never have the least 'matter to upbraid me withal.

'Things being thus concluded on 'both sides, I kept my self ready for 'the Hour of the Rendezvouze: 'And having written the Promise in 'agitation, which I was so foolish as 'that I must needs sign it with my 'Blood, I went from home, and re-'paired under *Lidiana*'s Windows:

'at

at the time I thought all People to be in Bed, I hung up my Ladder of Ropes, which she was to fasten, for fear I should break my Neck; and finding it fixt, I mounted up in such haste, as that I seem'd to fly. When I was at the Window, I push'd against it, to see if it was open; and having found all things conformable to what had been told me, I entred the Chamber, where I should have let my self up against the Wall, though I knew the Room well enough, if one had not come to take me by the Hand. *Ah!* Lidiana, I said to her softly, getting as nigh as I could to her Ear; *how infinitely am I oblig'd to you? And though I should give you the last Drop of my Blood, can I ever acquit my self to you of what I owe you?* I was so very much in Love, that notwithstanding the Prohibition that was made me, I was going to launch out into a Discourse of a World of such like things, when

this

'this Person put her Hand upon my 'Mouth, I thereby understood 'that she barr'd my saying any thing 'more; and studying only to please 'her, I held my Tongue immediate-'ly. But in exchange I took that 'Hand, and kissing it with Tran-'sports that are more easie to be ima-'gin'd than described; I held my 'Fortune so great, that I would not 'have exchanged it for that of a 'King. From thence I would have 'proceeded to the Face; but this 'Person repuls'd me gently with her 'Hand; insomuch that she did but 'the more augment the flames I was 'sensible of for her.

'What shall I tell you in short, af-'ter several little things of this Na-'ture, she yielded to my Desires, 'after having receiv'd the Promise I 'have mention'd, and which I gave 'her upon my accosting her. *How!* 'the *Sultan* interrupted, *has* Lidiana 'granted you the last Favours? *And* 'dare you boast of this in my Pre-

'sence,

'ſence, *you that know, that of a ſor-*
'*ry Slave, as ſhe was, I made her a*
'Sultana; *nay, and a* Sultana-*Fa-*
'*vourite.* *Pardon me, Sir,* this Man
'anſwer'd; *Matters went not ſo;*
'*and if you would be pleas'd to have*
'*one Moments Patience, I will quickly*
'*acquaint you how all this Concern was*
'*unravell'd.* You muſt know, that
'in the Moment that I thought my
'ſelf the moſt Unhappy of all Men,
'I found ſo little of what I ſought,
'that I could have wiſh'd my ſelf a
'good way off. Is it poſſible, ſaid
'I in my ſelf, that there can be ſuch
'deluding Maidens, and that it is
'my ill Fortune to have made ſo ill a
'Choice? I did not make theſe
'Lamentations without cauſe: She I
'had in my Arms had been already
'in thoſe of ſeveral others, by what
'appeared to me. Thus my Love
'being changed all of the ſudden in-
'to a terrible Diſguſt, I need not tell
'you that the Night ſeem'd a thou-
'ſand Years long to me. This is a

'thing

'thing you may eaſily ſuppoſe of
'your ſelf; and it is not neceſſary
'that I utter my mind further. In
'fine, I made the Day come at leaſt
'Two Hours ſooner than ordinary:
'I mean, that there were Two Hours
'of Night ſtill to come, when I told
'this Perſon that I was going my
'ways becauſe the Day drew near.
'She graſp'd me in her Arms, ſeem-
'ingly to make me believe that ſhe
'let me not go without Regret;
'But this little avail'd her, ſince I was
'ſo far from making Returns to her
'Fondneſſes, that I could have been
'content, as they vulgarly ſay, to
'have been kick'd out thence. In
'ſhort; having broke out of her
'Arms without obſerving many
'Meaſures, I went my ways with a
'Mortal Vexation; but which would
'have ſtill been much greater but
'for a dexterous Trick I us'd. This
'Perſon had put my Promiſe under
'the Bolſter; I took it ſlily away,
'with a full Reſolution not to mar-

'ry.

'ry her, since that instead of the 'Raviſhments I had promis'd my 'ſelf to have met withal in her, I 'had found ſomething ſo different, 'that the Day was not more from 'Night.

'Now theſe are the Particulars of 'that Rendezvouze; to which it is 'convenient to add to undeceive you 'at preſent of the thought you had 'of its being *Lidiana*: for the *Go-between* having propos'd to her the 'Secret Marriage I have before-men-'tion'd, and in no wiſe prevailing 'with her to conſent to it, ſhe be-'thought her ſelf of making an o-'ther ſupply her Room, to merit 'the Recompences I had propos'd. 'Thus one may ſee how dangerous 'it is to truſt in thoſe Venal Souls; 'and provided they have your Mo-'ney, they mind not by what 'means. Beſides it was an eaſie 'matter for her to paſſe this Trick 'upon me. She had in the Houſe a 'Creature ſhe had ſeveral times put

'to all sorts of Tryals: Besides she 'lay in *Lidiana*'s Chamber; nay 'and in her Bed; the Father of that 'fair Virgin thinking fit to have her 'by him, for fear of those Noctur-'nal Rendezvouzes by which the 'sharpest circumspection is over-'reach'd. Now I was ignorant of 'this Circumstance. Thus all things 'conspiring to my Misfortune, it is 'not to be wondred that I was cru-'elly deceived.

'In the mean while I went away 'the next Morning without bidding '*Adieu* to the real *Lidiana*, of whom 'however I had no cause to com-'plain. But the Adventures of a 'Wicked Night had so pawl'd me, 'that I was no longer capable of 'Gratitude or of Love. Being pos-'sess'd with such Sentiments, if I 'could have made my Horse fly, I 'should have done it; so eager I was 'to distance my self from *Lidiana*; 'to whose disadvantage I told my 'self then at least as many things

'as

'as I had told my ſelf a little before
'in her favour. So precipitated a
'Departure did extreamly ſurprize
'her: She was not for ſome time to
'be perſwaded that I was gone: but
'at length having no room left for
'doubt, if her Love made her be
'troubled for my Proceedure, her
'Spight ſuggeſted into her ſo many
'things againſt me, that it may be
'ſaid to have got the Victory. Ne-
'verthelefs ſhe was not ſo well Mi-
'ſtreſs of her ſelf as that ſhe could
'entirely forget me; wherefore af-
'ter having waver'd a long time,
'whether ſhe ought to write to me
'or not, her weakneſs was more pre-
'valent than her Haughtineſs. Per-
'haps ſhe thought hereby rather to
'revenge her ſelf on me, than make
'appear the Remnants of her Love.
'Nevertheleſs, as in regard of that
'Paſſion it is more grateful to a Lo-
'ver to meet with Reproaches than
'to be treated with indifference, this
'had been ſtill matter of Triumph

'to

'to me; ſuppoſing I had been ſtill as 'ſenſible to her Merit as I had for-'merly been. But leaving this Que-'ſtion apart, which nevertheleſs was 'never conteſted by able People, I 'will repeat to you the Tenour of 'the Letter ſhe ſent me.

LIDIANA's *Letter to* RIVELLI.

I Thought you of a Character ſo different from that of other Lovers, that I made no Scruple of giving you Teſtimonies of my Weakneſs. But in fine, it was a folly in me to believe otherwiſe than that all Men reſemble one another: There is not one but that is a Deceiver: And as it would be Blindneſs to doubt of this after your Carriage, I am become ſo wiſe at preſent that I ſhould rather chooſe to loſe my Life than ever more commit the Folly I have done. In ſhort, I hate you now as much as I ever lov'd you:

This

This says All to express the Sentiments I am in, since it is certain that I have been so possess'd in your Favour, that nothing could be added to my good Opinion.

'She has Reason, said I smiling in 'my self, never more to commit the 'Folly she has done. It is effectu-'ally the means to disquiet those that 'have to do with her; and I advise 'her to stick to her Face; which far 'from discovering her Defects, has 'so many Attractions, that no body 'would ever imagine that the rest 'was so little answerable thereunto. 'After this Reflexion, and some o-'thers that were as little to her ad-'vantage, I felt my Pulse, as I may 'say, to know whether I ought to 'make her an Answer; but fearing 'if I did so, it might make me incur 'an other Letter, I resolv'd by my 'silence to break off all Commerce 'between us Two.

'Now

'Now this was my Proceedure; 'whence it is easie to conjecture, that 'Lidiana seeing her self slighted in 'this mannner effectually hated me 'in succession of time, as much as 'she had ever lov'd me. But what 'do I say? Her Aversion did much 'surpass the Love she had ever had 'for me: I will make who will be 'Judge: And I will take you your 'self, Sir, to Witness, after I shall 'have related to you the Sequel of 'my unhappy History.

'You must know, that the Cam-'paign being ended, I was in Garri-'son in a City where all the Women, 'even such as were of the very 'Dregs of the People, were so ma-'ny Beauties. And certainly though 'I have travell'd as much as any Man 'of my Age, I know no place where 'Beauty is more generally found. 'This infinitely pleased all the Offi-'cers; Several allured by so great a 'Charm, married in this Place; o-'thers that had not as yet Devotion

'enough

'enough for so holy a Business, got
'Mistresses; and of the whole num-
'ber of us I may safely say, that on-
'ly I remained insensible. They all
'wonder'd at this; and particularly
'those that knew me to be of a Tem-
'per very prone to Love: But in
'short, one single Night had given
'me a Disgust to all Women; and
'they were all *Lidiana*'s to me.

'About the middle of our Win-
'ter Quarters I had a Boon to ask
'of the Senate; and thinking to
'obtain it better in Person than to
'demand it by a Letter, I departed
'Post: though to tell the Truth, I
'considered on it more than once by
'reason of *Lidiana*, whom I was
'afraid of meeting some where or o-
'ther; nay and for whom I had so
'much Aversion, that I dreaded to
'hear her so much as speak. Being
'arriv'd at *Venice* I did not so much
'as enquire after her, for fear some
'troublesome Person or other should
'come and extoll her Gracefulness

'and

'and Beauty to me. Only the Go-
'between knowing of any Return,
'came to see me; or to speak more
'exactly, to renew some Commerce
'with me; so to get some Money
'from me. But I sent her Word,
'that I would not speak with her:
'Yet this not making her desist, she
'came again several times; which
'oblig'd me to send her Word, That if
'she was ever more seen at my Gate,
'I would have her whipt. She knew
'not what to think of so great an
'Alteration: But in fine, these Words
'being positive, she was afraid of
'the Bastonnade, and importuned
'me no more.

'I came not alone to Town; one
'of the most Considerable Officers
'of the Army kept me Company.
'As he was Young, well-made and
'very Rich, he quickly made an
'Hurry-durry among the Ladies;
'who were not all Cruel to him.
'Nevertheless he met with One to
'whom he sigh'd in vain: And as he

'very

'very ingenuously told me his Concerns after having entertain'd me 'with his good Success with the o-'thers, he imparted to me the Ri-'gour of this Person; at which he 'seem'd to me to be very much afflicted. 'As I was no longer an *Inamorato*, I did not take his Passion 'by the same Byas I should formerly have done. On the contrary, I told him, That I wonder'd that he 'who was so richly stock'd with 'Wit, laid a thing so very much to 'heart that was only the Well-bred 'Man's Trivial Play-thing; or at 'most ought to serve him only as an 'Amusement. He was surpriz'd to 'hear me talk in this manner; I 'whom he had ever known to be of 'a Character quite different from 'this Discourse. *You are no longer 'the same Man I knew*, he said to 'me: *And pray ye since when have 'you been so very much chang'd? Since*, I answer'd him, *that I have found 'all Women to be deceitful. I there-*

'upon told him my History; at which 'he did but laugh, after the rate of 'most Young People, that make a 'Jeast of all. *You laugh at my Cost*, 'I said to him: *but have a care I do 'not quickly laugh at yours.* This 'cannot be long first, since you tell me 'you are so very much in Love; For, 'craving all Lovers Pardon, there is 'not One but is a Cully; And notwith-'standing all your Wit and Under-'standing, I have no better Opinion 'of you than of an other. *All Women 'cheat us*, continued I: *Some smile 'upon us, as having need to recover 'their Honour that has long been un-'der a Cloud; Others seek to lose 'it: And if there be any one that has 'sincerity at first, she keeps it not long, 'either that We being first wicked, we 'quickly teach them to become so as 'they cannot repair the Corruption of 'their Nature; which makes them run 'full speed to Perdition. The truth 'is*, he said to me, *you surprize me 'still more and more by such extraor-*

'*dinary*

dinary Sentiments: I do not much wonder to see you have such a bad Opinion of her that has deceived you; but to extend it indifferently over all Women, is what I cannot relish; nor will ever any Body relish it no more than I. Pardon me, I said to him; For let a Man but have never so little Practice of the World, and he will quickly know that they are all mark'd in the same Corner; and all the difference I find in them is, that some are cunninger than others; insomuch that they can longer disguise their ill Nature.

'We could never agree upon this 'Matter; which did not much trou-'ble my Head no more than the Ru-'mour he spread abroad of me, that 'I slighted all Women. And in-'deed they were all so indifferent 'to me, that he asserted nothing but 'the Truth. Nevertheless as he was 'daily more and more possess'd in 'Favour of his Mistress, he was so

'particularly aſſiduous in his Ad-
'dreſſes to her, as oblig'd her to
'look upon him with a better Eye
'than ſhe had hitherto done. He
'came to proclaim this Triumph to
'me with an unequall'd Joy; and
'in all probability expected I ſhould
'have complemented him upon the
'Occaſion; when I told him with a
'very dull Face; *Well! You ſee now*
'*which of us two was in the right:*
'*Now the Cheat's diſcovered: You*
'*was only put off at firſt that you*
'*might be the more enflam'd; and now*
'*you are only look'd upon with a better*
'*Eye for fear you ſhould be gone.*
'*Do but continue, and you will ſee*
'*ſtrange things. In fine; I do not*
'*deſpair but that the ſame thing*
'*will quickly befall you as did*
'*me; and you need only to preſs*
'*on, as I did, to be convinc'd of*
'*this Truth from your own Expe-*
'*rience.*

'I ſhall

'I ſhall not tell you, Sir, all that 'he reply'd to me upon this Point: 'that would be too tedious: and it 'is ſufficient that you know, that he 'having continued to ſing to me ſtill 'in the ſame favourable Tune of his 'Miſtreſs, I was oblig'd to draw him '*Lidiana*'s Picture, to ſhew him, 'that thoſe that had the fineſt ap-'pearance, were not the *Shees* in 'whom he ought moſt to truſt. He 'was very attentive to the firſt 'Stroaks I touch'd of her; but I 'perceived that he afterwards grew 'concerned; which I was preparing 'to ask him the reaſon of, when he 'interrupted me with this Diſcourſe: '*Forbear your Raileries, I beſeech* '*you*, Rivelli, *and do not draw the* '*Pourtraict of my Miſtreſs inſtead of* '*yours.* I! the Pourtraict of your 'Miſtreſs, ſaid I to him, ſtrangely 'amaz'd: Faith I had no ſuch 'Thoughts: I know not who ſhe 'is, and hitherto have not been 'much concerned to know her;

'but you will ſee, that if they be ſo 'alike in Face, they are much more 'alike in inclination: I told you 'plainly enough, that all of them 'are Cheats; and you will never 'believe it till you are caught.

'He took in ill part all I ſaid to 'him; and ſeeing it impoſſible for 'me to get him out of his penſive 'Humour: But for God's ſake, *I ſaid 'to him*, acquaint me with your Mi-'ſtreſſes Name; for I know that of 'mine; and this will be ſurer than 'all the Conjectures you can derive 'from my Diſcourſe. *She is call'd* 'Lidiana, he anſwer'd me; *and ſhe 'is a Perſon of Quality, who is come 'hither with her Mother for a Proceſs 'of Conſequence which they have before 'the Senate.* I leave it to be judg'd 'whether I was not ſurpriz'd at this 'Declaration. Nevertheleſs I judg'd 'it not convenient to tell him what 'I thought of the matter: On the 'contrary, being very willing that 'he might be caught as well as I:

'You

'You have been falsly allarum'd, 'said I to him; I only knew *Lidia-* 'na by Fame; and though she is of 'my Countrey, as I departed thence 'when very young, I do not remem- 'ber I ever saw her. A body has 'never so much assurance when he 'tells a Lye as when he tells the 'Truth; either that the serious look 'I put on, made him suspect some- 'thing, or that there appear'd Signs 'in my Face that I did not speak sin- 'cerely; he had no sooner left me, 'but that he left *Lidiana*, whom he 'ask'd if she knew me. She blusht 'at this Question, and appearing 'strangely *non plus'd*; *What is the* '*meaning of all this, Madam*, he re- 'new'd? *And the Question I put to* '*you, is it so extraordinary that it* '*must needs cast you into the Confusi-* '*on I see you labour under.* This 'perplext her still more than before; 'insomuch that it was not necessary 'he should question her farther to discover that it was she I had point-

'ed at in my Discourse: *Ah! Ma-*
'*dam*, he said to her, *who would have*
'*thought it of so lovely a Person?*
'*And what will become of me after all*
'*I know?* He said no more; but as
'this was more than needed to make
'*Lidiana* apprehend that some Story
'had been told him that touch'd her
'Honour: *Yes, Sir*, she said to him,
'*I know* Rivelli: *But whence comes*
'*this Perplexity, and the Discourse*
'*you hold me?* He was in so lamen-
'table a Condition, that he could
'not answer her in his Turn:
'Whereupon *Lidiana* confirming
'her self still more and more in her
'Suspicions: *From that proceeds*
'*what I see*, she renew'd: *And is*
'*it a Crime in me to have known* Ri-
'velli? *I'le tell you farther, he has*
'*lov'd me; or at least he would have*
'*made me believe so: and perhaps*
'*he would have marry'd me, but for*
'*Conjectures which it's not necessary I*
'*inform you of. I believe it suffici-*
'*ently, Madam*, he answer'd: *But*

'*let*

'*let me adviſe you not to mention it to*
'*any Body. Nay and I adviſe you to*
'*tell* Rivelli, *that he be more diſcreet*
'*an other time: And if like him, I*
'*had had the Fortune to have Favours*
'*from ſo beautiful a Lady as you,*
'*I would ſooner have been kill'd than*
'*ever have ſpoke of them to any Bo-*
'*dy.*

'He judg'd not convenient to ſay
'more to her, though ſhe earneſtly
'entreated him to conceal nothing
'from her: But what he had ſaid
'to her being more than ſufficient
'to make her underſtand that I had
'ſpoke ill of her, I was ſtrangely
'ſurpriz'd to ſee her enter my Cham-
'ber one Morning; and having
'ask'd her the Occaſion, *I come,*
'*Sir*, ſaid ſhe to me, after having
'taken off her Veil, *to know why*
'*you ruine my Reputation: and I*
'*wonder very much that you, whom*
'*I ever thought a worthy Perſon, ſhould*
'*do Actions ſo unworthy of a Man of*
'*Honour. You was ſuffer'd*, added

'ſhe, *to go your ways, as you did,* 'without your taking leave of me: I 'never made you any great Reproaches 'for breach of Faith: and you ſhould 'never have heard talk of me, if you 'had not oblig'd me to it by your Car-'riage.

'*Lidiana* appear'd ſo beauteous 'to me in holding this Diſcourſe to 'me; and ſhe was really ſo lovely, 'that it is not to be wonder'd if I 'perceiv'd thoſe Flames to revive 'that had been formerly ſo ardent. 'I was ſtrangely ſurpriz'd; I that 'ſlighted her ſo much before, that 'I ſhould have preferr'd the moſt 'deſpicable of Creatures before her. 'For this Cauſe did I ſeek to excuſe 'my ſelf; or rather, I abſolutely 'deny'd the ever having ſpoke ill of 'her. *It is very true, Madam,* I 'added, *that I have great Reaſon to* 'be ſurpriz'd that you have ſo much 'forgotten me after what paſs'd the 'Night before my Departure; and 'I can only attribute it to the

'Le-

Levity so natural to those of your Sex.

I had no sooner bolted the Word but that I check'd my self tacitely for so doing. I ask'd my self what this meant? and if after the Imperfections she had under her Linnen, a Man must not be void of Judgment to be still sensible of any Spark of a Flame that must needs make me blush for shame. But if I made this Reflection, *Lidiana* immediately free'd me from it by a Transport of Anger which she could not moderate, after having heard me talk in this manner. *What then has pass'd between us*, she said to me? *And impart it to me, since that I do not remember it. Let's leave that matter apart*, I said to her, *and let it never be mentioned, since you have forgotten it so soon. I have tenderly lov'd you, you know it: but in short, one is not born to love eternally: And though this should not commonly happen, yet this*

is

'*is what has befallen you, who had pro-*
'*mis'd never to love any Man but*
'*me.* It will be a ſurprizing thing
'to you, *Sir*, that I talk'd to her in
'this manner; after the tacite Re-
'proaches I had newly made to my-
'ſelf: But the more I look'd upon
'her, the more I found the Wounds
'to open again that ſhe had made in
'me. Wherefore all I could ſay to
'my ſelf of the Condition I had
'found her in, being not capable to
'make me turn my Eyes from off
'her, I grew more enflam'd than
'ever; which will not ſeem ſurpri-
'zing to you when I ſhall have told
'you, that ſhe quickly juſtify'd her-
'ſelf to me of the Suſpicions I had
'conceiv'd of her Vertue.

'As all I ſaid to her did ſtill de-
'note that ſomething very particu-
'lar had paſs'd between us, ſhe
'would by all means know it; and
'thinking there was no great Myſte-
'ry in diſcovering a thing to her
'which ſhe muſt needs know as well

'as

'as I, I surpriz'd her extreamly, 'when I told her what I told you 'before. I perceiv'd she blush'd at 'this Relation, and I attributed it 'to the Modesty that is so natural to 'Maidens; or to the Regret she 'had perchance for having granted 'me this Favour now that she no 'longer lov'd me. But I remain'd 'not long in this Opinion: *What 'you now tell me,* she said to me, *is 'an Imposture so enormous, that I 'will die in Torments, or I will be re-'venged. You shall maintain before 'the World what you have now said 'to me; It concerns your Honour and 'mine so to do; and I perceive you 'have been deceiv'd.*

'These Words open'd my Eyes 'when it was too late; and no dif-'ficult matter was it for me to ap-'prehend that it was the *Go-between* 'and her implement that had plaid 'me this Prank. In the mean while, 'if without having been inform'd of '*Lidiana*'s innocence, I had a-new con-

'conceiv'd for her Sentiments all full 'of tenderneſs, it was quite another 'thing, when I was perſwaded of 'it. *Ah! Madam*, I ſaid to her, 'what can I ever do to repair my 'Fault? It was the loſs of the Eſteem 'I had for you that has been the Oc'caſion of all this Diſorder. But 'now that I know your Virtue, I ſhall 'ſo well repair what has paſs'd, that you 'ſhall ſee that it is not without an ex'tream Regret that I ſee my ſelf ob'lig'd to leave you. But I do not pre'tend, I added, that my Repentance 'ſhould exempt me to you wards from 'the Satisfaction I owe you: You 'need only impoſe a Puniſhment upon 'me, and I ſhall not appeal from it, 'however rigorous it may be: and on 'the contrary I will ſay, that you are 'too good, ſince I own my Fault does 'not merit any Pardon.

'If ſhe would have liſten'd to 'me, I ſhould have ſaid much more 'to her, ſo penetrated I was with 'Love: But her Head being only

'poſ-

'poſſeſs'd with her own Juſtificati-
'on, ſhe went directly to her Mo-
'ther, to whom ſhe gave a faithful
'account of all I have newly rela-
'ted. As that Lady could not act
'all alone in this Concern, ſhe gave
'her Husband intimation of the
'Matter, who preſented a Requeſt
'to the Magiſtracy, that he might
'be permitted to take up all thoſe
'he ſuſpected of this intrigue. The
'Magiſtracy having upon his Re-
'queſt given way to Juſtice, the *Go-*
'*-between* and her imp were put into
'Priſon; and I was confronted a-
'gainſt them after they had deny'd
'the Points upon which they were
'examined. As the Truth was eaſie
'to be made out, notwithſtanding
'all their little Tricks and Circum-
'ventions, the Judges condemn'd
'them to be put to the Rack. This
'ſtruck a Terror into them; and
'preferring a ſpeedy Death to Suf-
'ferings that are very often worſe
'than the loſs of Life; they own'd

'their

'their Crime, without ſtanding to 'be put to Torment. After this 'they were condemn'd to the Whip 'and to Baniſhment; a Puniſhment 'too mild for a Crime of that Na-'ture.

'This Affair did not thus occur 'in *Venice*, without furniſhing Mat-'ter of Talk to a World of People: 'And as Detraction finds occaſion 'to bite upon all things, People 'there were that would needs have 'it, that theſe Wretches had been ſa-'crifie'd to recover *Lidiana*'s Ho-'nour. This Rumour was quickly 'buzz'd about the Town; which 'the Father having notice of, he ex-'preſs'd a Concern at it to his 'Friends, who advis'd him to mar-'ry her out of hand. They told 'him, as it was true, That it was 'the means to put an end to all theſe 'Diſcourſes: Whereas as long as ſhe 'ſhould remain a Maiden, People 'would be ever talking of this Ad-'venture. He found their Reaſons

've-

'very pertinent: and as they ad-
'vis'd him at the same time to pre-
'fer me before all the Matches that
'could be offer'd, it so fell out, that
'his interest made him forget the a-
'version he had conceived against
'me. One of our mutual Friends
'propos'd the thing to me, which
'fill'd me so with joy as was impossi-
'ble for me to express it. I went
'immediately to find out *Lidiana*'s
'Father; and after having thank'd
'him for his kind thoughts to me, I
'told him that he might make the
'Contract of Marriage as he pleas'd:
'That I pretended to give all I had
'to his Daughter: wherefore that
'it could not be so advantageous to
'her but that I should still wish to
'do more for her. He receiv'd my
'Complement with abundance of
'Civility; and after having made
'some Excuse to me for what wa
'pass'd, he bid me go see his Daugh
'ter, and tell her this News.
'found her alone in her Chamber

'and

'and having thrown my self at her 'Feet; *Your Father bestows you upon 'me*, said I to her, *Beauteous Lidia-'na. But at this Present, however 'incomparable it may be, cannot please 'me unless it comes from your own 'hand: Tell me, I beseech you, whe-'ther the Regret I have for having of-'fended you, has made you forget the 'hatred you had for me.

'*Lidiana* gave me not time to fi-'nish these last Words; or at least 'did not give her self the Patience 'to hear them. And indeed, inter-'rupting me with a Disturbance of 'mind not easily to be observ'd: *My 'Father bestow me upon you!* she said 'to me: *And is he so poor spirited 'after the Reasons we have to hate 'you? Does he not remember the ill 'Opinion you had of me? And in 'short, after the most sensible Affront 'that a Man can offer to a Virgin, is 'it possible that he can pitch his Choice 'upon you? How, Madam!* I said 'to her, *is it possible that you your-*

'self

'self do remember my Offence, rather 'than the Regret I have for having of-'fended you? I shall say nothing to ye 'of my Love: yet if you have the least 'Memory, you must know that I have 'lov'd you with all the Passion and 'all the Honesty imaginable. This is 'sufficiently justify'd by the Esteem I 'have forborn having for you from 'the very moment that I thought you 'less honest than I imagin'd; but now 'that nothing more hinders me from 'entertaining that Esteem a-new, I 'may tell you, that I shall render so 'much Justice to your Merit and 'Vertue, that never Husband set so 'great a Value upon a Wife as I pretend 'to have for you. If you never esteem 'me but in that Quality, she answer'd 'me, you will never have other than 'an ill Opinion of me. Though I 'know the Obedience that I owe to my 'Father, yet I would have you know 'that I shall dispence my self from it 'in this Occasion: Wherefore if you 'have the least Consideration for me, I

'be-

'*beſeech you to lay aſide all thoughts of* '*courting me; otherwiſe you will oblige me to things which will not be* '*to the advantage of either of us* '*both.*

'You may think, Sir, I could 'not be otherwiſe than afflicted at 'theſe Words. *Ah! Madam, I perceive how the Caſe ſtands*, I anſwer'd 'her: *I now experience a Calumny that* '*is common to me with many Unfortunate Wretches. I have a Rival; and* '*you do not hate me ſo much on the account of what I have done to you, as* '*becauſe that you love an other.* I 'was ſtruck with Jealouſie at the 'ſame moment: and after having 'cudgelled my Head with a thouſand deſires of revenge, I went away all in a Fury, and fully reſolv'd 'not to let things reſt ſo. In this 'Deſign I went to find out my Rival, whom I let know, that one of 'us muſt die. He was a brave Man, 'and not of an Humour to be ſtartled at ſuch a Complement: Where-

'fore

'fore without being in any manner 'heated; *Very willingly*, he ſaid to 'me; *but perhaps there will be no need 'of that, if you will but acquaint me 'what animates you ſo much againſt 'me. Can you be ignorant of that*, 'I anſwer'd him? *And when you rob 'me of my Miſtreſſes Heart, can I be 'without Reſentment? I have not 'ſo much Preſumption*, he reply'd to 'me: *but though it were ſo, I ſwear 'to you, that things ſhall never go 'farther on my ſide. I have lov'd* 'Lidiana, *I own it; nay and my de-'ſign was to marry her; but ſince the 'News you imparted to me, I am ſo 'thoroughly paw'd, that I no longer 'remember that I have lov'd her. If 'ever I happen to marry*, added he, *it 'ſhall not be a Chronicle-Wife, at leaſt 'in my knowledge.*

'This Diſcourſe made me appre-'hend that he was one of thoſe that 'had an ill Opinion of *Lidiana*: 'And though I had a ſufficient E-'ſteem for her, as to be very glad

'that

'that every one ſhould do her Ju-
'ſtice, the leaſt of my Cares was to
'undeceive him. Having no long-
'er any Occaſion to quarrel with
'him, after ſuch a Declaration, I ſet
'my Mind a little more at reſt; ho-
'ping that ſince I had not a tender
'and paſſionate Lover to combate
'withal in her Boſom, in time I
'might with eaſe recover the Ho-
'nour of her good Opinion. Be-
'ing poſſeſs'd with theſe Sentiments,
'what did I not do for Two whole
'Years together? I quitted my Em-
'ployment that I might be the more
'aſſiduous with her; and declining
'to make uſe of her Father's Autho-
'rity, who ſtill favour'd my Addreſ-
'ſes, I plac'd my hopes only in the
'Exceſs of my Repentance, and in
'the Violence of my Love. What
'did I not do, Sir, during ſo conſi-
'derable a time, and which ſeem'd
'ſo much the longer to me as that I
'was in Torment? But what need is
'there of ſpinning out this Diſcourſe

'any

'any further? You must know, that 'I only lost my Pains; which put-'ting me into the utmost Despon-'dency, I departed from *Venice* 'with a Resolution to go seek in 'Forreign Countries the Cure I 'could not hope for as long as I 'staid in a Place where I should be 'continually expos'd to the seeing of '*Lidiana*. I had much a-do to form 'this Resolution, and much more to 'execute it; so great is the Feeble 'when one is in Love. But what 'much help'd to make me gain this 'over my Mind is, that *Lidiana* had 'no longer any Quiet with her Fa-'ther, since she had so formally 'thwarted his Will. Thus believing 'my Absence would screen her from 'all these Persecutions, I went to '*Rome*, and thence into *France*, 'where I serv'd in the Forces that 'were appointed against *Flanders*. 'But though War be capable of pos-'sessing one's Mind entirely; prin-'cipally when a Man has a little Am-

'bition,

'bition; it is nevertheless certain, 'that wherever I went I carry'd *Lidiana's* image along with me: She 'every where came to torment me; 'insomuch that having no more Repose in that Countrey than I had 'at *Venice*, I return'd thither *incognito*, to have at least the Consolation of seeing her. I found she 'was gone thence on her return in 'to our own Countrey; and taking a Journey thither my self, I 'was told the saddest News that ever could have befallen me. It is 'not necessary that I tell it you; you 'know it, Sir, as well as I; I mean 'the stealing away of *Lidiana* by 'the *Aga*. Any other that had been less in Love, would have contented himself with venting of Sighs, 'and with accusing Fate of injustice: But as my Love was of a 'different Nature from that of all 'Men, I also took a Resolution, 'which no other Man but I would 'have taken; it was to come snatch

'*Li-*

'*Lidiana* out of the *Aga*'s Hands; 'wherein though I ſaw an inſur-'mountable Difficulty, my Conſo-'lation was, that either I ſhould die 'in pain, or that I ſhould ſpeed in my 'Deſign. Whereupon I came hither 'only as courting Death, as I may 'ſay: but Deſtiny ſeeking ſtill more 'and more to oppreſs me, I was in-'form'd that your *Celſitude* had had 'the ſame Eyes as I: That is to ſay, 'that you had found *Lidiana* ſo 'Beauteous that you had put her in-'to your *Serraglio*. It would be 'impertinent for me to tell you my 'Deſpondency at this News: it is 'eaſie for you to judge of it by the 'Reſolution I took to paſs over the 'Walls of the *Serraglio:* And I un-'dertook to do ſo, ſo much the more 'willingly, in that I hop'd that *Li-'diana* being there againſt her Will, 'ſhe would concur with me to free 'her ſelf out of Slavery; ſuppoſing 'that I was ſo happy as to get to the 'Speech of her. There is no need

'of my telling you any thing far-
'ther: You know how you found
'me; and I ſhall only add, that your
'*Celſitude* is concern'd to puniſh me
'out of hand, ſince that as long as I
'ſhall be alive, I ſhall not only diſ-
'pute againſt you, but alſo againſt
'the whole Earth together; for a
'heart without which I cannot
'hope to live.

This Man having thus related his Concerns, the *Grand Signior*, who had hearkened to him without one's being able to ſay whether he was animated with Revenge or Hatred, went out of the Chamber, and ſo to that of the *Sultana*, who was intereſted in this Diſcourſe. There, without telling her what this Man had related to him, he would needs be acquainted with her Hiſtory from her own Mouth, to ſee whether he had not impos'd upon him. But her Account having been altogether conformable to his, he wanted much of be-

being in that Anger he would have been in had he perceiv'd they had prevaricated with him. Nevertheleſs he was ſtill uncertain what he was to do: For on the one ſide he judg'd this Man worthy of Death for the Love he dar'd to harbour for the *Sultana*: He conſider'd on the other, That he was ſufficiently puniſh'd in the manner he was treated. In fine, Mildneſs having prevail'd over all other Conſiderations, he granted him his Pardon at the Requeſt of *Sultana Zelinda*; not that ſhe did honeſtly eſpouſe his intereſt, but becauſe ſhe thought that by preſerving his Life, it would be for her an inſtrument ready at hand that would ſerve to render the *Grand Signior* jealous of her Rival. Now indeed her Policy had been good, ſuppoſing that his *Celſitude* had ſuffer'd him to ſtay in his Dominions; but having had the Pre-caution to ſend him away thence; nay and to cauſe him to be accompany'd to the

very Frontier; that ſo he might not be impoſed upon by this means, her Malice prov'd all to no purpoſe.

While that all this paſs'd *Ibrahim* was ſtill in the ſame place, whence he imagined he might eaſily eſcape, having engag'd the Husband and Wife in his intereſts. But as People often reckon without their Hoſt, it happen'd that in the very time that he thought himſelf in the greateſt ſecurity, it wanted little but that he had been diſcovered in the manner I am going to relate: After all the Buſſle that I have newly re-counted, the *Grand Signior* went down into the Garden with the Two *Sultana*'s; and as he was walking there fell a terrible Rain that oblig'd him to ſeek out ſome Place where he might be under ſhelter. There being none nearer than the Gardiner's Houſe, he ran thither with his Company; and *Ibrahim* had but juſt time to hide himſelf. In the mean while the

the Gardiner's Wife was ſo ſurprized, that the *Grand Signior* eaſily perceiv'd that ſomething ail'd her. The *Sultana*'s paſſed alſo the ſame Judgment. But they all having attributed it to the ſurpriſe ſhe was in to ſee Perſons of their Rank, the lowneſs of her Extraction ſav'd her. The Rain being over, the *Grand Signior* return'd into the Garden; and there it was that *Sultana Zelinda* was ſurprized with a ſtrong Jealouſie. For while ſhe was amuſing her time, in contemplating ſome Figures that were upon their *Pedeſtal*, the *Grand Signior* ſtruck aſide with her Rival; and kindling his Flames a-new that had only been interrupted by her Malady, he entred into an Arbour that was at the end of an Alley, the Door of which he ſhut after him, for fear *Zelinda* ſhould come and diſturb his Converſation. *Zelinda* no ſooner perceiv'd that he went off, but that being vex'd for having given Occaſion to the Affront

that was done her, ſhe walk'd apace to overtake him. She was almoſt as ſoon as he at the Arbour, which ſhe ſaw him direct his ſteps to; and when ſhe was juſt got up to it, ſhe ſaw her ſelf ſhut out.

This was ſo terrible a Vexation to her, that ſhe had never had the like. Perhaps ſhe did not love the *Sultan*; and the Love ſhe had for *Ibrahim* is a good inſtance of the contrary, ſince Two great Paſſions are incompatible with one another. But in her Ambition ſupplying the Room of Love, ſhe was for all the World as jealous as if ſhe had really lov'd him. I ſhall not however loſe time in relating all that her Anger made her ſay: and indeed it would be needleſs, ſince there is no body but may imagine, that in ſuch Circumſtances one is capable of ſaying many things. It is more expedient that I proceed to her Actions, by which it will be made more manifeſt than by her Words, with what

what Spirit ſhe was animated.

All the World agrees, That Women have infinitely more Wit than we Men, when the Matter in agitation is Love. The Reaſon for this is eaſie to be given: As it is of an extream Conſequence for them to conceal their Concerns, they make it their ſtudy, as I may ſay, from their Infancy, to foreſee all that may befall them. From hence it comes, that ſome of 'em are ſo expert at deceiving their Gallants and Huſbands. But this is not my Buſineſs; and I ſhall only ſay, that as they excel us in the Art of making Love, it is the like in Jealouſie, to which they are ſo naturally prone, that it makes them often commit a thouſand Follies. If I ſought for the Reaſon of it, I ſhould quickly find it. As Jealouſie is a Companion of Love, it follows, that he that is the moſt wedded to this laſt Paſſion, is the more exactly ſenſible of the other. Now *Zelinda* making this fatal Ex-

perience, it is not to be thought ſtrange if ſhe ſtudy'd the means to ruine her Rival, to which ſhe was ſo much the more powerfully excited, in that ſhe daily ſaw her Favour augment, and that her own, on the contrary, did viſibly diminiſh.

After having fram'd this Reſolution, ſhe was not long before ſhe contented her ſelf; and in this manner went ſhe to work: She made reflection, that *Ibrahim* only paſs'd for her Rival's Brother, on the ſcore of what her Mother had ſaid of him: That the *Sultan* was to be made believe, that it was a thing invented on purpoſe to conceal the ſecret Flames he had for her. That if he was ſufficiently jealous after this, to be hurry'd to the utmoſt Extremities againſt him, ſhe would ſee to preſerve him from danger, either by the Aſcendant ſhe had over him, or by the Credit of others that had the *Grand Signior*'s Ear, and who

who would be over-joy'd to employ their intereſt in her behalf. That at the worſt, if *Ibrahim* periſh'd in this Occaſion, ſhe ſhould have, at leaſt, the Conſolation of having involv'd her Rival in his Misfortune.

Such a Reſolution was no great Proof that ſhe lov'd *Ibrahim* with over-much Affection: But without troubling my Head, in going about to juſtifie her, I ſhall only ſay, that ſhe is not the only Perſon that has thus ſacrific'd her Love to her Ambition. Be it as it will, being daily more and more perſwaded, that ſhe could not take more juſt meaſures than theſe, to re-eſtabliſh her ſelf in the *Sultan*'s Favour, and baniſh her Rival from it, ſhe caus'd Notes to be dropp'd in the *Grand Signior*'s Chamber, by which he had intimation given him, that People frequented the *Serraglio* for the Love of the other *Sultana*. One of theſe Notes falling into his Hands, he was

ſtruck with ſo terrible a Paſſion, that nothing was capable of cooling it, but a thought that came into his Head, that it might perchance be an Artifice of *Zelinda*. That he might ſhrift into the Truth, he went to this laſt *Sultana*'s Apartment, and pretending to conſult her upon this Affair: *Is it poſſible, Madam*, he ſaid to her, *that I am deceiv'd? And you that have ſo much intereſt to make the Truth known to me, how can you be at reſt in a thing that concerns you as well as I.*

He conſider'd her attentively, to ſee if he could diſcover upon her Face, with what Motions ſhe was ſeiz'd. But *Zelinda* being Miſtreſs of her Movements, and beſides excelling in the Art of Diſſembling above all thoſe of her Sex: *It is true, Sir*, ſhe ſaid to him, *that this Diſcovery concerns me as well as you, ſince it would be the means to recover the Honour of your Favour, which you have bereav'd me of, without my having*

ving render'd my self unworthy of it. But to what purpose would it be for me to intermeddle with a matter, since that your Celsitude *is so prepossess'd, that though I should let you see things with your own Eyes, yet would you not believe them.* She said these Words with such an Air of Simplicity, that the *Sultan* fell into the Trepan. *How will you let me see things with my own Eyes*, he answer'd her? *And having it in your power to procure my Repose, you have hitherto had the Cruelty to be silent. Ah! Sir,* the *Sultana* said to him, *is this still the means to get out my Secret? And these Transports of Love that start from you in spight of your Anger, do they not acquaint me, that the greatest harm that can be done you, is to disabuse you. Continue, Sir,* she added, *to love those that deceive you, and on the contrary, hate those that love you. This is the Fate I have of late undergone.*

This

This augmented the *Sultan*'s Jealousie to such a point, that he would needs at the same instant give order for the strangling of *Ibrahim*, which *Zelinda* being mightily surpriz'd at: *Moderate your Passion*, she said to him, *unless you would have me believe that I am now the most unfortunate of all Women. How can you have the least kindness left for me at a time when you are so sensible for an other. But if my interest does not affect you, do, at least, for your own sake what you will not do for mine. Suspend your Revenge, till you know whether you are really jealous. Perhaps you are impos'd upon, and would you not be very glad to be so inform'd, that you may not have any Scruple left.*

Tho these words were not capable of appeasing his Anger; yet at least he gave bounds thereunto, till such time as that he had shrifted into the matter. In the mean while the *Sultana* was very much perplex'd how to reconcile the Jealousie she had against her

her Rival, and the Love she was sensible of for *Ibrahim*. She had in her Mind invented an infallible means to confirm the *Grand Signior* in his Suspicions: But at the same time she represented to her self, that it would be the loss of her Lover, which render'd her a little more reserv'd in her Revenge. At length, Ambition prevail'd over Love, and to the hazard of all that could happen, she resolv'd to ruine her Sister. What farther oblig'd her to take this Resolution, is, that after having promis'd, as she had done the *Grand Signior*, to make him see clear into her Rival's infidelity, he earnestly press'd her daily, to which it was impossible for her to resist, at least, without letting him see, that all that she had done, was only an imposture: Wherefore being press'd by such powerful Considerations, she confirm'd to the *Sultan* the Promises she had made to him; and to acquit her self of them, she told him that it

was necessary he should dissemble both to the *Sultana* and to *Ibrahim*. That she would make him hear with his own Ears, his amorous Cajolleries to her: That she did not think he required more of her, since that to speak on one side, and to listen on the other, was a Proof sufficiently great, that she had told him nothing but the Truth. That she ask'd him but Two or Three Days for that purpose; that is to say, till *Ibrahim* went to pay a Visit to his pretended Sister, according to the Permission he himself had given him.

The *Grand Signior* agreed to all, as also to put himself in a Woman's Cloaths that day, that so in Quality of *Zelinda*'s Maid, he might slip into the other *Sultana*'s Apartment, without being known. Things having been concerted in this manner, they were accordingly executed. *Zelinda* knowing that *Ibrahim* was at her Rival's Lodgings, carry'd the

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Sultan thither, and letting him into a Closet that was beyond the *Sultana's* Chamber, she bid him stay there. Before she left him, she promis'd him, that she was going to bring them both near him; and that there being only a Partition of Deal Boards, he might hear all that they said to one another: For she insinuated to him at the same time, that she would withdraw immediately, to afford them the means of saying kind things to one another.

The *Sultan* fell into this Trap, and *Zelinda* being gone out, she pull'd to the Door, shutting it to with a Hook, without the *Sultan's* perceiving it. After this she went to find out *Ibrahim* and his Sister, who were in a place pretty remote from that where the *Sultan* was, and there making semblance of having something to desire the Wife of one of the *Grand Signior's* Principal Officers, she told her Rival, she knew not how to go about it, for that there had

had been ſome Bickering between them: that if ſhe pleas'd, ſhe could free her from that Trouble, ſhe that was a Friend of this Officers Wife: That ſhe entreated her to write to her, as if the thing came from her, and ſhe offer'd to do her the ſame Service in the like Occaſion. By this means ſhe engag'd her in writing: And as ſhe had made it a long tedious Buſineſs, a Tale of a Tub, and that it was neceſſary ſhe ſhould be a long while a writing, ſhe took that time to go to the Place whither ſhe had promis'd to bring the other *Sultana*. She us'd their not diſturbing her as a Pretence, and *Ibrahim*, who was very glad of it, being reſolv'd to improve that Occaſion to the diſcourſing her: Wherefore he follow'd her at the ſame time; and had no ſooner overtaken her, but that taking her by the Hand, *How much am I oblig'd to you, Madam*, ſaid he to her, *for having found the means to ſend away the other* Sultana?

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And how happy ſhould I be if it was for my ſake? Pardon me for my boldneſs, in ſaying ſuch things to you. It is perhaps ſhewing a little too much Preſumption: but after all the indulgence you have had for me, it is pardonable in me, though I believe that you prefer me even before the Sultan.

The *Grand Signior*, who heard all theſe Words as diſtinctly as if he had been in the very place where they were, not being able to contain his Reſentment; *Ah! Wretch*, cry'd he, with an inconceivable Fury, *ſtay one moment, and I will make thee throw off that Criminal Love that dares attack me, who am thy Maſter and Benefactor.* At theſe Words he would have ruſh'd out of the Cloſet; but finding reſiſtance at the Door, his Reſentment augmented in ſuch a manner, that all that I might ſay of it, would fall much ſhort of it. *Ibrahim* was much ſurpriz'd when he heard the *Sultan* talk

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in this manner; and *Zelinda* making ſemblance of being the like, *Ah! you are ruin'd, my Dear*, ſhe ſaid to him, after having got at ſome diſtance from that Place, for fear the *Sultan* ſhould know her Voice: *Make your Eſcape preſently, and for my part, I will ſee to come off as well as I can.* The Neceſſity was too urgent to ſtay long in conſulting what Courſe to take. Thus *Ibrahim* not knowing of any more ſafe Retreat than the Gardiner's Houſe, where he had already been, leapt out of the Window, without being perceiv'd by any body. *Zelinda* having ſhut it after him, went to the *Sultan*, who us'd his utmoſt endeavours to break the Door open.

He was in a terrible Fury, and without ſaying one word to *Zelinda*, he ran with his Sword in his Hand, where he expected to have found *Ibrahim*, and the other *Sultana*. He was not ſurpriz'd that he found no body there, and he had

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made noiſe ſufficient, as to imagine that they had made their Eſcape: but thinking that they could not be far off, he fell to ſearching, having ſtill his Sword in his Hand, an indubitable Mark that he had no mind to ſtand ſhilly ſhallying. It will doubtleſs be wonder'd that the *Sultana* did not go to meet him, to juſtifie her ſelf: but you will forbear doing ſo, when you ſhall know, that her Cloſet was remote from the place where this Scene was acted, and that ſhe was there ſedately finiſhing her Letter, and without ſuſpecting in the leaſt the Misfortune that was grapling her. In the mean while, the *Sultan*, after having ſought her every where in vain, directed his ſteps towards this Cloſet; and as he hurry'd along, ſhe turn'd her Head that ways, to ſee what was the matter. She was much ſurpriz'd to ſee him thus with Sword in Hand, and all tranſported with Anger, which was eaſie to be gueſs'd by his Eyes,

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as well as by his Carriage. Thus without thinking of what she did, she threw her self at his Feet, saying to him, *Ah! Sir, do not let your Resentment fall upon your poor* Sultana. These Words confirm'd him still more, that she was culpable; so that he lift up his Arm to plunge his Sword into her Bosome; but having by chance cast his Eyes upon the Letter, *See here still doubtless*, said he to her, *Marks of thy infidelity, perfidious as thou art*; and Curiosity suspending his Resentment, he went to take that Letter, wherein he was very much amaz'd to see quite an other thing than he expected. This disarm'd him in some manner, not being able to apprehend how the *Sultana*, having such reason as she had to tremble, could amuze her self, in writing such indifferent things. Thus not being able to conceal his Astonishment, *Ah! this is too much, ungrateful Woman*, he said to her, *to join insensibility to the most mor-*

mortal Offence that can befal me; and tell me how thou canſt be ſo in Cold Blood, when that I ſurprize thee with Ibrahim, *and dallying away the time with him in Amorous Diſcourſes.*

The *Sultana* was ſo far from dreaming of the malicious Prank that had been plaid her, that without caſting the Fault upon her Rival: *If I have ſeen* Ibrahim, *Sir*, ſhe ſaid to him, *it is only with your Conſent; and you muſt have taken for amorous Diſcourſes the brotherly Kindneſſes that have paſs'd between us, but which never went beyond the bounds of Honeſty.* At theſe Words ſhe fell into a Swoon; and her Fright having made her Malady return at that very inſtant, ſhe vented in a moment ſo great a Quantity of Blood, that the *Sultan* imagin'd, that without being oblig'd to revenge himſelf, he ſhould preſently be revenged by this Accident. This made him direct his ſteps another way, to ſeek

out

out *Ibrahim*: but he was far from finding him, since that he had made his Escape, as is before related. All these Disappointments did a little cool his Fury, insomuch, that *Zelinda* seeing her self reveng'd on her Rival, without there being any Necessity to shed all her Blood, took that time to endeavour to save *Ibrahim*. *Sir*, she said to the *Sultan*, *I may perchance be mistaken, and the Tranquility you found the* Sultana *in, is a certain sign that she never understood any fineness in all the Caresses she has made to* Ibrahim. *You know there are Brothers and Sisters that love one another tenderly, and discourse one another accordingly. Wherefore I am vex'd that I have animated your* Celsitude *by false Accounts, which will be the Occasion of the* Sultana's *Death. If you would take my Advice*, added she, *you should seek to inform your self, before that you proceeded further: And you ought to take my Advice; mine, that notwithstanding the*

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interest I have to rid my self of a Person that shares your Heart, do sufficiently love Justice, as not to be willing you should sully your Hand with a Blood that you would perhaps unjustly shed.

The *Grand Signior*, who had already judged favourably of the *Sultana*, being still pre-possess'd in favour of her by *Zelinda*'s Words: *Yes, Madam*, he said to her, *I will follow your Advice, since you judge it convenient. But be she innocent or not, I cannot but, after the Generosity you have had to save her, when that one bare Word of yours would have ruin'd her, I give you for a Recompence the whole Empire, which your Virtue merits o're my Heart. Yes, my lovely* Zelinda, *You need not fear that your Rival shall share it with you; nay I am sorry that I have given you any matter for Vexation in that point: but I will so behave my self henceforward, as that you shall never have any Occasion to be discontented.*

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Such Words as these were a mighty matter of Triumph to *Zelinda*; and her Wile could not have a more advantageous Success. Thus, all haughty at this Event, she signify'd to *Ibrahim*, after what manner she had turned things, and how that he had nothing more to fear. As there is nothing that touches us more nearly than our selves, *Ibrahim*, who at another time would have been sensibly afflicted at his Sister's Misfortune, was easily comforted. Nevertheless the *Grand Signior* was not so well cured of his Suspicions, but that he forbid him expressly ever more to enter into the *Serraglio*, which extreamly displeas'd *Zelinda*, who had been so well satisfy'd with the Visits he paid his Sister, that if the *Sultan* had taken her Advice, matters should have gone otherwise. However, she was too cunning to desire him to revoke that Order. When People know themselves culpable, they are ever afraid, that the least thing

thing ſhould be capable of diſcovering them, as indeed this daily happens, when that it is the leaſt expected. Beſides *Zelinda* having judgment enough, as not to commit a Fault of that Nature, ſhe ſtudy'd how to find in ſecret interviews, the Occaſions of ſeeing *Ibrahim*, and of not making her Fidelity to be ſuſpected by the *Grand Signior*.

This was abſolutely impoſſible, at leaſt without engaging an Eunuch, who might facilitate the entrance of the *Serraglio* to her Lover: Wherefore to ſurmount this Difficulty, ſhe careſſed one of them, call'd *Almonack*, a Perſon of Wit, and whom ſhe had already done ſome Service, though at that time ſhe did not expect any Returns. Now you muſt know, that Jealouſie prevails as much among Eunuchs as among others; they would all be Favourites of the *Sultana*'s: and at the moment that any one of them is ſo, he has as many Enemies as he has Comrades

This befel *Almonac*, and one call'd *Moro*, who had at leaſt as much Wit as he, having got a Fancy to dive into the Reaſons that made him ſo gracious with *Zelinda*, was not long without diſcovering the whole Myſtery. He one day perceiv'd that he let *Ibrahim* into the *Serraglio*, and that he conducted him into *Zelinda*'s Apartment. There needed nothing more for him to judge how matters went: But he was in a great Perplexity, when it came to the puſh, what Courſe he was to take upon this Diſcovery. For in ſhort, he was no ſtranger to *Zelinda*'s Aſcendant, and her Artifices, inſomuch that he was afraid, that the *Grand Signior* being inform'd of it, he might have ſo much Weakneſs as to believe her, to his Prejudice. Being poſſeſs'd with this Apprehenſion, he reſolv'd to go warily to work in this Concern: That is to ſay, not to intimate *Zelinda*'s infidelity all at a Clap to the *Sultan*; but that *Ibra-*

him

him had a ſecret Commerce in the *Serraglio* by *Almonac*'s means. *Moro* having given this Account to the *Sultan*, his *Celſitude* fancy'd it to be for the love of the other *Sultana*, inſomuch that being vex'd at his having pardon'd her, he went to find out *Zelinda*, to whom he imparted the News he had been juſt then acquainted withal. *Zelinda* gave Heaven thanks, for that he came to unboſome himſelf to her, ſeeing otherwiſe ſhe had been abſolutely ruin'd, as well as *Ibrahim*. Nevertheleſs, not judging it convenient to oppoſe the impreſſion this News had made upon his Mind, ſhe told him on the contrary, that *Ibrahim* merited a moſt extraordinary Puniſhment, and that if he would take her Advice, he ſhould endeavour to nab him in the Fact, ſo to make him afterwards ſuffer the Puniſhment ſuch a Fault did deſerve.

The *Sultan* reliſh'd this Advice, and commanded *Moro* to be ſo narrowly upon the watch, as that he might ſurprize him: And *Moro* imagin'd this to be no difficult Province, becauſe that in one Week only he had ſeen him enter four times into the *Serraglio*. But *Zelinda* being none of thoſe that ſleep upon an Affair of ſuch great Conſequence, gave *Ibrahim* intimation of all that paſs'd, inſomuch that *Moro* lay all in vain perdue. The *Grand Signior*, whom he had promis'd, that Three Days ſhould not be over before that he put him into his Hands, ſeeing Fifteen ſpent, ask'd him, if he jeaſted with him. To which, *Moro* not knowing what Anſwer to make, he gave him but one Week more, threatning him, that if in that time he did not ſee the Effects of what he had promis'd him, he would treat him as a Calumniator. There paſs'd a Week more without his being able to keep his Word: Whereupon the

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Sultan being animated againſt him by *Zelinda*, commanded the *Mutes* to ſtrangle him. *Moro* knowing that he dy'd unjuſtly, he demanded permiſſion to ſign his Laſt Will and Teſtament, to which he had Anſwer made him, that he might not only do it, but alſo that the *Grand Signior* had ſo order'd it.

Whereupon he began to maintain, that what he ſaid of *Ibrahim* was true; after which, he that ſerved as Clerk, bid him ſign it; but he made Anſwer, that it was not yet time, and that he had many other things to ſay. Thereupon he would have talk'd of *Zelinda*; but this Clerk being oblig'd to her for his Fortune, would not liſten to his Depoſition, but made Signs to the *Mutes* to do their duty, inſomuch that he was ſtrangled at the time he was going to conceive ſome Conſolation, in knowing that the *Sultan* would revenge his innocence.

Moro periſhing in this manner, it was eaſie for the Clerk to ſerve *Zelinda* thoroughly; and he needed only to ſuppreſs the Depoſition that concerned *Ibrahim*: but as he wanted much of having the ſame Sentiments for him, as he had for her; and that on the contrary, he was overjoy'd at this occaſion to revenge himſelf, for an injury he had receiv'd from him, he carry'd the Laſt Will to the *Grand Signior*; and it made upon his Mind all imaginable impreſſion. *Zelinda* was not long without taking notice of it; for after he had diſmiſs'd this Man, and caſt his Eyes twice or thrice over what he had left him, *Ibrahim is culpable*, he cry'd, *and I muſt not ſuffer him to live any longer.* At theſe Words he gave order, that the *Mutes* ſhould be bid to go ſtrangle him: Whereat, *Zelinda* being ſtrangely ſurpriz'd, and meaning to endeavour the fencing off ſo great a Misfortune. *What is your* Celſitude *going to do*, ſhe ſaid to him?

him? *And muſt you, upon the Tale of ſuch a Wretch, put to Death one of the greateſt Generals of your Empire, and who is the moſt capable of doing you ſervice.* The *Eunuch*, who had Order to go warn the *Mutes*, ſurceas'd his Departure at theſe Words, being very glad to oblige the *Sultana*, in giving the *Grand Signior* time to make Reflection on what he did. The *Sultan* appear'd uncertain in this, and tenderly viewing *Zelinda*, *You are too generous, Madam*, ſaid he to her, *for a Rival; and if you did well, far from interceding for them, as you do, you would animate me to put them both to death. Far be I from that*, ſhe anſwer'd, *Sir; if I aim at your Heart, it is not by ſullying my ſelf with a Crime which I ſhould be eternally upbraiding my ſelf withal. But alas! I perceive, that I ſhall never poſſeſs it, that Heart that makes all my Joy. It is much more my Rival's than mine; and if it were not ſo, you would not com-*

mand that Ibrahim *should be put to Death upon a bare Suſpicion. But what do I ſay! rather upon the Depoſition of an Enemy, ſince he that had promis'd you ſo many things, is dead, without being able to acquit himſelf of his Word; ſo great a Jealouſie*, added ſhe, *I very much ſuſpect; and it is perhaps the Cauſe I concern my ſelf ſo much in* Ibrahim's *ſafety, ſince that if you grant me this, it is an infallible Mark that you love me more than her.*

Zelinda having turn'd matters thus dexterouſly, the *Grand Signior* was far from diving into the Motive of her Interceſſions; and that he might not give her Occaſion to believe, that he entertain'd any Sentiments for her Rival, to her Prejudice. *You confound Delicacy and Love, Madam*, he ſaid to her; *if I am jealous, it is not of your Rival, but rather of my Glory, which ſuffers by* Ibrahim's *Audacious neſs. If I put him to Death, it is only to learn thoſe*

that

that might reſemble him, that it is Temerity for them to addreſs their Vows to the Sultana's. *Thus if I am jealous, it is only of you; and I do not pretend, that* Ibrahim's *Action had the Confidence to entertain you with his Love. How ſhould I be capable,* Zelinda anſwer'd, *ever to liſten to any Body, to the prejudice of what I owe to my Lord! I ſay this,* the *Sultan* reply'd, *only to render others wiſe. It is expedient that one or other die.* At theſe Words he reiterated the Order he had given for the ſtrangling of *Ibrahim*; inſomuch, that *Zelinda* being no longer able to parry ſo Unhappy a Blow, ſhe could not retain her Tears, which ſhe nevertheleſs cover'd with an other Pretext: *If you ſee me weep, Sir,* ſhe ſaid to him, *it is not without Reaſon: The whole* Ottoman *Empire is going to impute* Ibrahim's *Death to your Jealouſie: And, as I told you, this Paſſion never proceeding but from a violent Love, who will*

not believe, but that I am the leaſt beloved; I, for whom your Celſitude has ever appeared ſo indifferent, as never to have any ſuſpicion of my Fidelity. How! the *Sultan* retorted, *would you have me jealous of you? No, Sir,* Zelinda anſwer'd; *And whatever I ſay, I will never give you occaſion for it: But I could wiſh, that you were not ſo much of others, or at leaſt, that you would not let it be ſo manifeſt. If* Ibrahim *is ſo unhappy as to rob you of your Repoſe, you may remedy it, without ſuffering the thing to retort upon me: You need only to diſtance him, under the Pretence of the Good of your State; after that, you need not fear his returning into the* Serraglio, *to ſee my Rival; But to put him thus to Death on her ſcore, I tell it you once again, is clearly to ſhew to all the World, that I am the wretched ſhe, and that it is ſhe only for whom you have an inclination.*

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The *Sultan* was ſtrangely amaz'd to ſee her take things by this Byaſs; and as he did not penetrate into the ſource of her Tears, that ſtill trickled down more and more, he became very much mollify'd. Thus, to ſhew him, that he had more conſideration for her, than ſhe ſaid, he diſpatch'd away an Eunuch, to hinder the *Mutes* from doing their Office. The Eunuch made haſte, for fear of coming too late; and indeed it was neceſſary he did ſo, ſince that all *Ibrahim* had been able to obtain, was, that he might bathe, and ſay his Prayers, before they executed the Sentence that was paſt upon him. Nevertheleſs, as the *Sultan*'s Deſign was not to pardon him to all Intents, he ask'd the *Sultana*, whither he ſhould ſend him, and *Zelinda*, chooſing rather to deprive her ſelf of him, than ſee him die, adviſ'd the *Grand Signior* to confer the Government of *Buda* on him, an Employ that requir'd a Man of a con-

consummated Experience in War, and which, by Consequence, he was as capable of as any body.

Thus you see how *Ibrahim* came to be made Governour of so considerable a Place, and why in the first Convention that was held of the *Bassa*'s, he was not sent for with the rest. But at length, the Good of the State prevailing over all other Considerations, he came to Court, and *Sultana Zolinda* having ever a great influence over the *Grand Signior*, made use of that Occasion to see him; Absence having not been capable to make her forget him, though it had been of some Years duration. It was not so with *Ibrahim*, not that he had enter'd into any other Engagement, but he had made use of his Reason, to cure himself of an Amour that had like to have been fatal to him, and wherein he could not persevere, at least, without being expos'd to the same Dangers he had run. Thus the

the Returns he made to the Testimonies she gave him of her Passion, spoke but little fondness; nay, and he excus'd himself from accepting of an appointment she made *Almonac* propose to him, who on his part did not allow *Zelinda* his Ministry but with trembling, after what had happen'd. The *Sultana* was startled, and also picqu'd at this Refusal; and though he had us'd, as a Pretext, that if he did not accept the Offers she made him, it was rather out of fear of engaging her in some ill Business, than for his own sake; yet was she of a quite different Opinion. She entertain'd a Fancy, that his denying of her thus, was because he had got an other Mistress; and this thought inspiring her with a Design to ruine him, she only suspended this Resolution till such time as that she could be truly inform'd, how this Matter stood. To effect this, she brib'd one of his Principal Servants,

vants, imagining, that if he had any Intrigue, there muſt be ſome one or other to whom he muſt have imparted it: But not one having been able to give her any ſuch Account, becauſe that effectually her Suſpicions were ill grounded, ſhe laid aſide above half her Anger, beginning to believe, that it was only Fear that had hinder'd him from accepting of her Rendezvouze.

After ſhe had thus juſtify'd him in her Mind, ſhe was but a very little while before ſhe reſtor'd him her Affection: So true it is, that in the Hearts of Lovers, the Paſſions that ſeem the moſt contrary, ſucceed one another. Far am I from ſaying, that they be effectually ſo: For after all, whatever Hatred a Lover, or a Miſtreſs may think they have for each other, we are too blame, to call by that Name the Sentiments with which they are animated. So far it is from being Hatred, that it is an Exceſs of Love, inſomuch,

that

that the greateſt Miſchiefs that can befall them, would be, if that ſhould happen which they deſire againſt the Beloved Perſon. *Sultana Zelinda* did quickly give proofs of what I now ſay; for inſtead of continuing in the revenge ſhe meditated a moment before, ſhe ſignify'd to *Ibrahim*, that ſhe lov'd him more than ever, inſomuch, that ſhe could live no longer, if he refus'd her the ſatisfaction of entertaining him in private.

It would not have been well in *Ibrahim* to have perſiſted any longer in his Denials: Cruelty does ill become a Man; and after all, ſince it was only fear that detain'd him, it was in ſome manner ſhameful for him, that a Woman ſhould have more Courage than he. I know not, whether it was for theſe Reaſons, or others, that he chang'd his Mind; for in ſhort, he ſaw *Sultana Zelinda*, and ſhe took ſo much pleaſure in his Converſe, that ſhe would

would have been very glad if the *Grand Signior* would have conceiv'd a Fancy to have detain'd him at Court. Nevertheleſs, as this was a thing rather to be deſired than hoped for, ſhe fell to contriving ſome other expedient, for the giving her ſelf content, and found none better than this.

As ſhe knew not the Secrets of State, ſhe innocently thought that *Ibrahim*, and the other *Baſſa's*, had been ſent for, only with a Deſign of making War, and imagining, that there would be a thouſand Occaſions for her to ſee her Lover, if ſhe could oblige the *Grand Signior* to go himſelf at the Head of his Armies: She us'd all manner of means to perſwade him, that it concern'd his Honour not to leave any other than himſelf to make the Conqueſt of *Hungary*. The *Sultan*, who to ſpeak frankly, loves a Camp leſs than the *Serraglio* and Hunting, having not anſwer'd her upon this

Point,

Point, as ſhe deſired him, ſhe addreſs'd her ſelf to the *Grand Vizier*, who, in Quality of Prime Miniſter, might do much for her ſatisfaction. She was very loath to do it however; For this Miniſter had been in Love with her for ſome Years; but he, far from ſeeming to her, amiable enough to create the like Sentiments in her, he was diſagreeable to her, to a Degree beyond ſufferance. But being capable of doing all things for the Love of *Ibrahim*, ſhe ſent to tell the *Grand Vizier*, that ſhe had a longing deſire to ſpeak with him, and entreated him, that it might be the ſame Day. *Almonac* was the Bearer of this good News, which afforded the *Vizier* ſo much Joy, that he made him a Preſent of a Diamond of great Value. You may be ſure, he did not fail the Rendezvouze: He threw himſelf at the *Sultana*'s Feet; he ask'd her, what he could do for her Service, entreating

treating her, that ſhe would employ him. *Zelinda* receiv'd him with a Countenance, which ſhe knew how to compoſe as Occaſion ſerv'd. Thus having appear'd all Sweetneſs, contrary to her Cuſtom, the *Vizier* was ſo enflam'd, that he vow'd to her, that what ſhe demanded of him, muſt not be in his power, or that he would inſtantly grant it her. *We ſhall ſee that*, the *Sultana* made Anſwer; *and what I deſire of you, is, that in the War we are going to make in* Hungary, *you would induce the* Grand Signior *to go thither in Perſon.*

The *Grand Vizier* was ſurpriz'd at this Requeſt, and ſeeing that the *Sultana* had ſuffered her ſelf to be abuſed by the Rumours that ran about of an approaching Rupture between the Two Empires, he thought it convenient to undeceive her, that ſo ſhe might convert her Demand into an other, wherein there might be means of doing her Ser-

Service. Whereupon he inform'd her, how the Reports that run about of the War, were only to oblige the Emperor ſtill to augment the Offers he had made to the *Grand Signior*: That there were not the leaſt thoughts of proceeding to a Rupture with him, and how far from that the State ſtood in need of Peace. Though ſuch an Anſwer ought to have ſtopp'd the *Sultana*'s Mouth, ſhe did not reſt ſatisfy'd therewithal: She told the *Vizier*, That it was very true, that ſhe had thought, as well as others, that the War was juſt breaking out; but that by being miſtaken, ſhe did not ſee why he refus'd her her Requeſt: That Peace and War being equally in his Hands, he might chuſe either: That if he did it not, it was for that he had no Deſign to oblige her: That ſhe was very glad ſhe knew it, that ſo ſhe might accordingly regulate her Sence upon his Conduct. Theſe

These Reproaches were sensible to the *Grand Vizier*, proportionably to the Love he had for her; and as it proceeded even to Excess, I shall not undertake to express his Grief: Nevertheless, being very willing to mollifie her Spirit: *Ah! Madam*, he said to her, *would you, that for my own sake, I should plunge the Empire into the Disorder that is an inevitable Consequence of War. Should not I remain responsable towards the* Sultan, *and towards his People? And for having confided his Authority in me, must I be the Author of so many Mischiefs? Tell me*, he added, *what can oblige you to make such a Request, and perhaps I may find some other Expedient for your satisfaction.*

The *Sultana* was not so mad as to do it. And indeed, if there are Women that impart to their Lovers what passes secretly in their Hearts, it is only to their Favourites; but to believe they do so to

others,

others, is what never happen'd, and never will. Thus the *Sultana* guiding her ſelf by theſe Rules, far from owning things to him as they were, us'd, as a Pretext, That the *Grand Signior* ſhar'd his Favour between her and her Rival, ſhe fancy'd ſhe could not better remove her from his Heart, than by removing her from his Preſence. That as ſhe did not enjoy her perfect Health, the *Grand Signior* would never expoſe her to Fatigues, ſuch as were thoſe of War: That this was the Service ſhe expected from him: if not, that he might expect ſhe would never look upon him with a good Eye.

The *Grand Vizier* believ'd ſincerely what ſhe ſaid: Wherefore, imagining, that provided he propos'd ſome Expedient that could produce the ſame Effect, ſhe ſhould like one as well as an other: *It is not neceſſary, Madam*, he ſaid to her, *that we proceed to that Extremity*,

mity, for the giving of you ſatisfa-ction; and though in the ſentiments I have for you, it is very grievous to me to underſtand, that all your Vows aim only at poſſeſſing the Grand Signior; *Yet will I ſerve you in it, to ſhew you, that your Content will ever be dearer to me than my own: Suffer us only to finiſh,* he added, *the Treaty that is now negotiating with the Emperor; and after, I promiſe you to engage the* Sultan *to undertake ſuch a Progreſs as ſhall be the ſame thing for you, as if he had been engag'd in War.*

This Expedient was ſuch as would have *non-plus'd* a Perſon that had leſs Addreſs than the *Sultana:* But beſides her being naturally crafty, and that beſides, Love whetted her Wit: *What you ſay,* ſaid ſhe to him, *would be ſomething, if I did not ſee an inconvenience in it. If you thus cauſe the Emperor to take a Progreſs, this will be ſo far from quieting my Mind, that it is on*

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the contrary a Courting in me of new Diſgraces. For one Rival that I ſhall rid my ſelf of, there will thence ariſe an hundred others. How many People are there that have not the leaſt thoughts, by reaſon of the length of the way, of preſenting a Beauty to the Sultan, *who ſeeing him upon the ſpot, will be proud of the Occaſion of bringing him all that they ſhall find handſome. I ſhall be every where afraid of meeting with one or other, to ſupplant me, and only in War can I find my ſafety.*

Theſe were the Reaſons the *Sultana* urg'd, to deſtroy the Expedient the *Grand Vizier* had ſtarted: And as they had ſome Face, he bent his Thoughts to effect her purpoſe by ſome other means. In the mean while, as it was not his Opinion to make War with the Emperor, he propos'd that of the *Perſian*, wherein he made appear much more facility; but which the *Sultana* thwarted with Reaſons I ſhall ſuppreſs.

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In fine, the *Grand Vizier* in no wiſe prevailing to get her approve of it: *Well, Madam*, he ſaid to her, *'tis done, ſince you will have it ſo, and we will have War with the Emperor. But at leaſt remember, that it is only to oblige you; and that if this makes me loſe the* Sultan's *Favour, you are bound to treat me a little more favourably than hitherto you have done.* The *Sultana* being over-joy'd at her having obtain'd what ſhe deſired, gave him ſome good Words, which render'd him ſo fervent to oblige her, that he ſent for *Ibrahim* that very day, by whom he expected to be better inform'd than by any other, by reaſon he was acquainted with the Countrey, and knew the means how to carry on the War ſucceſsfully in *Hungary*.

Ibrahim repairing to the Houſe of this Prime Miniſter, came at a time when he was buſie: Wherefore there being no means of ſeeing him

him in half an Hours time, the *Grand Vizier* ſent Directions to his Wife, to introduce him into her Lodgings, and to entertain him till ſuch time as he had diſpatch'd an Affair he had then in hand. This was a ſignal Favour for *Ibrahim*, and which the *Grand Vizier* ſeldom did to any Body: But the neceſſity he had of him, was the Occaſion of ſo great a Diſtinction. Be it as it will, *Ibrahim* no ſooner ſaw this Lady, but that he remain'd, as it were, charmed with her Beauty. The Lady, on her ſide, found him perfectly handſome; and if they had dar'd to interchange their thoughts upon this Caſe, they would have mightily gratify'd their Inclinations, ſince there is nothing that more abridges the pains of Lovers, than the knowledg they give one another of a Reciprocal Love. But in ſhort, both of them were cautious of ſo freely declaring their Sentiments, *Ibrahim* was detain'd by

the Respect that People commonly have for the Person beloved, and the *Grand-Vizier's* Wife, by the *Decorum* of her Sex. I do not say, by the Obligations of her Duty, since it is certain they seldom stick to fail in that, from the time they amuse themselves thus in ogling so tenderly any other than their Husbands.

Thus this Interview only terminated in a great deal of Civility on both sides: But though the *Grand Vizier* remain'd full an Hour without coming, the Conversation did not languish, as commonly happens when there is nothing that animates it. They said a Thousand pretty things to one another: and they had still abundance more to interchange, if he had not come so soon. In the mean while, the *Grand Vizier* being to discourse him in private, took him along into his Garden, where he immediately fell to the matter, asking him,

what he thought of the Emperor's Forces. *Ibrahim* told him what he know of them; and as he required nothing more than Occasions to signalize himself, he made the Conquest of *Hungary* so easie to him, that the *Grand Vizier* was the more excited to keep his Word with *Zelinda*. Wherefore this Minister having been very much satisfy'd with him in this first Interview, demanded a second of him, and after that, several others, which *Ibrahim* took care to lengthen as much as he could, because that in those Occasions, he took his measures so well, that he saw his Wife several times, with whom he fell so in Love, that he absolutely forgot *Sultana Zelinda*.

What made him proceed so far in so short a time, is, that he found in her all the Acknowledgment he could desire. Nevertheless, *Sultana Zelinda* was sufficiently jealous, as to take notice of it; but by

good luck for him, as she knew that he had Business in that House, she was far from believing that he went thither on any other account. After all these Conferences, the *Grand Vizier* spoke to the *Sultan* of making War upon the Emperor; at which his *Solitude* seem'd amaz'd, having heard him say several times, that it was not for the Good of his Empire to break with him. He ask'd him the Reason of so sudden a Change: And as the *Vizier* was prepared for this Question, and that besides, the *Sultan* was none of those penetrating Wits, that can defend themselves against the Artifices of a Crafty Minister, he made him believe all he was minded. The War being thus resolv'd on in the Council, was proclaim'd forthwith throughout the whole *Ottoman* Empire, with this Circumstance, That the *Grand Signior* would go himself in Person.

Sultana Zelinda, after having expreſs'd her Acknowledgment to the *Vizier*, thought that there was nothing more wanting to her Happineſs, than to intimate to *Ibrahim*, that ſhe was the Cauſe of it, and why ſhe had done it. *Ibrahim* thought himſelf bound to thank her for it; but he did it with ſo little Fondneſs, that the *Sultana* was not ſatisfy'd. Still leſs ſatisfy'd was ſhe with ſeveral Reaſons he urg'd to divert her from this Voyage: He told her, among other things, that if ſhe ſuffer'd the *Grand Signior* to make War, he would ceaſe perhaps making of Love. That tho theſe Two Paſſions be not incompatible, it nevertheleſs often happens, that the one is neglected for the other: That her Intereſt was to keep him with her, and not to ſuffer his Flames to evaporate by Occupations that were of ſufficient Conſequence to make him lay all other Thoughts aſide.

The *Sultana* vouchsaf'd to hear him out; but he having done speaking, she was so scandaliz'd at his Discourse, that she was seiz'd with a furious anger: *It ill becomes thee, ungrateful wretch*, she said to him, *to give me Lessons how to keep the Sultan's Heart: And when I only aspire to thine, should it not be thy Province to make me forget him, instead of speaking to me in his behalf.* *Ibrahim* saw plainly he was in the wrong; and meaning to repair it, he endeavour'd to excuse himself upon the Care he had of her Fortune. But the *Sultana* made him Answer, That as he only faggotted sorry Reasons upon each other, he must needs do a great many things to make her forget such an Offence. This was frankly telling him to be more tender for the future: But as this did not depend on him, and that besides, the Love he had for the *Grand Vizier*'s Wife, was an Obstacle to the return of his Affection,

ction, he ſo little ſatisfy'd her, that ſhe was ſtill more angry than before. However, it had been a Thouſand times worſe, had ſhe known the Cauſe of her Misfortune; but by good luck for her, ſhe was a ſtranger to it; and as wretched as ſhe thought ſhe might reckon her ſelf, ſhe had, at leaſt, the comfort of flattering her ſelf, that ſhe had not any Rival.

In the mean while, the *Grand Signior* made all the neceſſary Preparations for his Journey; and *Ibrahim* judging that he ſhould be perſecuted, if *Sultana Zelinda* went along, us'd his utmoſt endeavours to have it put off, or at leaſt, that ſhe might not be of the Number. But the *Sultan* having formally declared his Mind, That he meant ſhe ſhould accompany him every where, he had no other means left than to ſet the *Grand Vizier* to work. Wherefore he told him, that if he was minded to Husband his own Glory,

it was not expedient he ſhould let the *Grand Signior* march to this Expedition: That though he was without experience, and by Conſequence oblig'd to rely in all things upon him, Fame would nevertheleſs adjudge the Praiſe of all his Conqueſts to the *Sultan*: That ſince He it was, that muſt undergo the whole trouble, it was but Juſtice that he ſhould have all the Glory: Wherefore he thought himſelf oblig'd, as a real Friend, to give him this Advice.

The *Grand Vizier* having weigh'd this Diſcourſe, found it to be of very good ſenſe, and ſeeking the Occaſion of ſpeaking to the *Grand Signior*, he urg'd to him Four Difficulties as to his Journey, inſomuch, that this Prince, who was more a Lover of Repoſe than of Trouble, promis'd him to make reflection upon the matter. Thus People began from that very day to forbear talking of the Journey, as of a thing very certain: And this being told

again

again to *Zelinda*, ſhe ask'd the *Grand Vizier* the meaning of it. He had only ſorry Excuſes to give her, which made her ſtill the more angry. Nevertheleſs, not ſatisfy'd with telling him, that ſhe took it very ill that he chang'd things in this manner, after having concluded them with her, ſhe declared to him ſo poſitively, that ſhe expected they ſhould be executed according to their Project, that the *Grand Vizier* durſt not thwart her. In this manner the *Grand Signior*'s Journey being upon the point of being broken off, was ſet on foot again, ſo as left no room for doubt.

When *Ibrahim* firſt heard this News, he thought every body miſtaken, and that he alone was inform'd. That he might be the better aſſured, he enquir'd of the *Grand Vizier* about the matter; and he being willing to let him ſee that it was none of his fault, own'd ingenuouſly to him, how the Caſe ſtood, and

at the ſame time, that he was forced to it by the *Sultana*. *Ibrahim* did all he could to repreſent to him, that in his Poſt he needed only to ſlight all ſuch Menaces: but he knowing the Influence ſhe had over the *Grand Signior*, not judging it convenient to incur her Diſpleaſure, he made *Ibrahim* Anſwer, That he lov'd rather a little leſs Glory, and to be what more aſſured of living the longer.

After this Anſwer, *Ibrahim* judg'd that it would be a difficult matter for him to prevail with him to take another Reſolution, ſo much the more as that his Paſſion ſolicited him himſelf, not to abſent himſelf from the *Sultana*; and as that he had taken, was very contrary to the Love he began to be ſenſible of for his Wife, he invented all manner of means to abſent himſelf from the Eyes of a jealous Woman, whoſe detection he judg'd it would be impoſſible for him to eſcape, if the *Grand Signior*

went the Journey. Being poſſeſs'd with theſe Sentiments, he whirl'd his Head with a Thouſand ſuch things as I may well call *Chimæras*, ſince that he himſelf gave them this Name, when that after having troll'd them in his Mind, he had found their Extravagancy. Nevertheleſs, after long muſing, he paws'd upon one that he thought certain, but which being extraordinarily dangerous for him, did well merit he ſhould take it into his ſerious Conſideration. This was to intimate to the *Grand Vizier*, that the *Sultana* was only deſirous of this Journey, that ſhe might have the Opportunities of ſeeing him, and that what ſhe had ſaid to him, was only a thing invented to conceal her Concerns.

The ſtep was very ſlippery, as I have ſaid, and he was not ſo unprovided of underſtanding, but that he plainly ſaw, that he ſtak'd his Life. But as *Inamorato*'s are half mad, whatever Reflections they

may

may make, he caus'd this Intimation to be given under Hand to the *Grand Vizier*; but to leſſen the Vexation he might entertain upon this account, he ſignify'd to him at the ſame time, that far from making returns to her Paſſion, there was nothing that was more inſupportable to him. That he might not doubt of this Truth, ſeveral Circumſtances were related to him, which he himſelf might remember. However nothing perſwaded him more than that invincible deſire the *Sultana* had to cauſe the *Grand Signior* to undertake this Voyage, and *Ibrahim*'s Requeſt to hinder him from ſo doing.

Without this Circumſtance he would a thouſand times have dy'd of grief, to ſee, that before him ſhe preferr'd a Rival, whom he eſteem'd ſo much below him. But being in ſome manner comforted, by making reflection, that the *Sultana* was made to endure the ſame Treatment

ment he endured, he went to the *Grand Signior*, whom he told, That he had maturely weigh'd the Reasons that were *Pro* and *Con* his Journey, and that all well considered, he ought to think of it no more, at least, without exposing himself to Perils, to which, whatever Precaution he might use, there was no Remedy. There needed no more to make him break it a second time: But the *Grand Vizier* not content with what he had newly done, he sent *Ibrahim* away Post, without giving him one moments delay, under colour, that in the then Conjuncture, the Frontier stood in need of such a Man as he.

This was to his great Regret, that he saw himself oblig'd to go thus away Post, and he could have wish'd he might have bid *Adieu* to the *Grand Vizier*'s Wife, with whom he had been so happy as to come to a right understanding. Nevertheless, his Vexation was much less than that

of

of the *Sultana*, when that she knew he was gone. She knew not whether she ought to impute the Fault to him, or to the *Grand Vizier*, whom she had heard, had only given him a Quarter of an Hours time to take his leave; of which, being very willing to be inform'd, she sent to require a private Conversation, with him, which he was far from refusing her, out of the desire he had to reproach her. Coming both with such Sentiments, it was impossible their Interview should pass without some noise; and indeed the *Sultana* having farther learnt, that the *Vizier* had disswaded the *Grand Signior* from going into *Hungary*, which she knew not before, She was no sooner in his Presence, but that without making him any Complement, she ask'd him why, after having promis'd her, that the Journey should be undertaken, he had broken it, to the prejudice of his Word. *The Reason is, Madam*, the

Grand Vizier said, without being startled; *that I knew not you was in Love with* Ibrahim, *and as I have a Care of my Master's Honour, I am very glad that a pitiful Slave should not share what is destined for him.* The *Sultana* was very much surprized at these Words; but not thinking fit to agree to what he said; *I excuse this want of Respect*, she answer'd, *because I know very well, that it proceeds from your Jealousie; but know you, that you must not relapse; otherwise I shall not ever be of an humour to take things so mildly. Thus it is to your Love*, she added, *that you are now indebted, that I do not punish you, as you deserve; and it no further in its Favour, that I consent that there be not any Journey, to let you see whether I love* Ibrahim *or no.*

It was an extraordinary thing to hear the *Sultana* talk in this manner, who naturally was violent, and who besides, according to all appearances,

ces, ought not to have taken the *Vizier*'s Complement so mildly. But you must know, that she had the knack of dissembling when she pleas'd, and that when her Heart was seiz'd with a strong Anger, that was the time when she affected the greatest Mildness. And indeed, far from doing what she said for the Love of him, her whole Contrivance was, how to know who had revealed her Secret to him, that she might afterwards accordingly make her Resentment fall upon them both. The *Grand Vizier* not knowing her to be so great a Mistress of Dissimulation, having taken in good part so sudden a Resignation, instead of persisting in jealous Motions, fell into an Excess of Tenderness. He ask'd her Pardon for having unjustly suspected her; and the *Sultana* seeing him at the Point she desired, press'd him to tell her the Author of such an Allarum. The *Grand Vizier* imparted all things to her, and ha-

having not omitted to tell her, that *Ibrahim* had himself entreated him to break off the *Sultan*'s Journey, she chang'd Colour, and call'd him a Thousand times Ungrateful and Perfidious in the bottom of her Soul. But this plung'd her into a greater Despondency; the *Vizier* assuring her, that either he was mistaken, or that the Intimation came from the same Hand.

They parted pretty good Friends in appearance, which must needs cast a diffidence in the Mind of a suspicious Man. But as much as Lovers are suspicious in Points of their Misfortunes, they are on the other hand as full of Confidence in Point of their good Fortune.

Thus the *Grand Vizier* having fallen into the Trap, went to the Army the most satisfy'd Man living, and was no sooner come thither, but that the *Sultana*, who was very glad that he appeared in these Sentiments, for fear that out of Jealou-

sie

ſie he ſhould reveal her Concerns to the *Grand Signior*, had it buzz'd in his Ears, that what had been ſaid to him of *Ibrahim*, was not only true, but alſo, that he lov'd her beyond expreſſion. He had much a do to believe this News; but they promis'd him to give him ſuch convincing Proofs of it, that he ſhould no longer doubt of it. He had nothing to ſay after this, till ſuch time as that it was made clear out to him, as was promis'd, he faſten'd upon the Siege of *Vienna*, after having laid waſte the open Countrey by Robbery, Slaughter, and Conflagration.

If this Famous Siege related to my Subject, I ſhould have fine things to inſert in this place; but as it is not ſeaſonable, I ſhall only ſay, that the *Vizier* was ſo jealous of *Ibrahim*, that he did all he could to have him cut off. It was a Miracle how he eſcap'd, at which the *Vizier* being ſtrangely amaz'd himſelf, he contriv'd

triv'd to ruine him after an other manner, charging him with the length of the Siege. The *Sultan* setting a Value upon *Ibrahim*, wonder'd to see that the *Vizier* complain'd of him; and having communicated his Letters to one of his Principal Officers, This Person being a Friend of *Ibrahim*'s, told him, that he needed not to wonder, and that the *Vizier* had Cause to hate him. The *Sultan* ask'd him, why? *Because, Sir,* he said to him, *that* Ibrahim *loves his Wife.* At these words he took out of his Pocket a Letter that was written from the Camp, in which several Circumstances of this Amour were signify'd to him. The *Sultan*, who delighted in diverting himself at another's expence, retain'd this Letter, and half an Hour after imparted it to the *Sultana*, who had taken a strange course to revenge her self on *Ibrahim*. She had caus'd a Letter to be put into the *Vizier's* Hands, which *Ibrahim* had

had written to her formerly, and which, being without a Date, might pass for New. But seeing this, which might produce the same effect, she was very sorry she had sent the other, yet kept it, however, that she might make farther use of it against *Ibrahim*. The *Sultan* left it with her, without so much as thinking whether she kept it, or not; but as soon as he was gone, she sent it to the *Vizier*, by an express Courrier, with order to tell him by Word of Mouth, That now it was his part to revenge himself on a man that made Love to his Wife, and to his Mistress: and this done, she imagin'd he would not suffer him to live long.

This was all the Complement she made to him: for she was so incens'd, to see that *Ibrahim* lov'd another, that she only breath'd Revenge. And certainly, this is not to be wonder'd at, since that some few days before, she was also prompted by the same Sentiments, though

though she at then thought him but indifferent. The *Grand Visier*, at the Reception of this Letter, had much a-do to believe what he saw. He had newly learnt by the other, that *Roxalana* lov'd the *Sultana*; And by this he saw plainly, that it was his Wife of whom some Circumstances were related, touching some Beauties she had under her Linnen; which made known to him, that those that talk'd in that manner, must needs have seen them. I leave you to think, what Two Injuries of this Nature were capable of producing in his Mind. To which, we shall add a Third Affront, which was as sensible to him as the other: This was to see, that after his Wife had had the Weakness to grant him some Favours, he had been capable of divulging them, which he perceiv'd by the Character of the Letter he had newly receiv'd. So it is, that being seiz'd at the

same

same time with Shame, Rage and Jealousie, he sent to seek out *Ibrahim*, and enquir'd of him about a Mine, with which he had enchang'd him. *Ibrahim* made him an Answer suitable to his knowledge of the matter: Whereupon the *Vizier* taking occasion to fall into a Rage: *There's no need of asking*, he said to him, *why the Siege is thus span into a length; no body does his duty; and* Ibrahim, *whom I thought the bravest of our Officers, is the most a Coward.* Ibrahim *is no Coward*, this *Bassa* made Answer; *And he dares say, that if every one had performed his duty, as he has done, the Town would long since have been taken. These are only Words*, the *Vizier* reply'd, *and Words very remote from Effects. But if you are so brave, go now instantly and attack such a* Bastion, *and either be kill'd upon the spot, or return victorious, when the Mine has been*

once ſprung. I conſent to it, was *Ibrahim's* Anſwer: *And if you would your ſelf ſee how I go to work, I would adviſe you to follow me.*

The *Vizier* ſeeking a Quarrel, was upon the Ferment at theſe Words: *You are a raſh, arrogant fellow*, ſaid he to him, *to go to tell me what I have to do. March where I command you, without further Reply: if not, I ſhall make you ſenſible what it is to diſobey me. I do not diſobey you*, Ibrahim reply'd: *but once again, it is not yet time to attack the* Baſtion: *And if you do it, it is the way to ruine your Army. I'le march thither, however, ſince that you will have it ſo; but I will have every one to know, that I do it not without Regret. I do not doubt that*, the *Vizier* reparty'd: *And it is long ſince, that I know, that the greateſt vexation that can be done to ſuch a Man as thee, is to ſend him to*

ſuch

such an occasion. I trouble my self little for this Reproach, Ibrahim made Answer: *My Comfort is, there's none but thou of that Opinion: but thou must needs bear me a Grudge upon other Accounts; And the whole Army is my Witness, that I spare my self no more than an other, when it concerns the* Sultan's *Service.* At these words, out he went, and so to his Expedition, which was as unhappy as it was ill digested. He caus'd Three Thousand Men to be kill'd in this Action: and the *Vizier* seeing that the whole Army was ready to revolt against him, accusing him of causing all these Men to perish without any necessity, sent him an Order to retreat.

In the mean while, though the Siege thus spun into a length, as the *Christians* dreaded, that at the long run the Place would fall into the Hands of the *Infidels*, several

veral haſten'd to its Relief, and, among others, the King of *Poland*. All theſe Troops being come within Two Leagues of the *Ottoman* Camp, the *Grand Vizier* was at a very great perplexity, having an Ill Will born him equally by the Officers and Soldiers. This did not hinder him however, from contriving to rid himſelf of *Ibrahim*; and having ſent for a Man in whom he confided, he commanded him, that when the *Baſſa* was engag'd in the Battel, he ſhould give him a Bullet in his Back. This Order being given, he detach'd *Ibrahim* to go view the *Chriſtians*, who were advancing upon the Mountain of *Calemberg*. The *Aſſaſſinate* follow'd him; but before he had time to do his Buſineſs, there came a ſhot that kill'd him himſelf, and which preſerved *Ibrahim* from danger.

It is not my Province to give the Particulars of that great Day, a Day so glorious to the King of *Poland*. It is sufficient, I say that after *Ibrahim* saw that all was in disorder on his side, he march'd towards the *Grand Vizier's* Wife's Tent, which was already surrounded with *Christians*; insomuch, that she ran a risque of falling into their Hands.

He open'd his Passage to it with his Sable: and having thus freed her from danger, he conducted her into the Body of his Army; which fled before the King of *Poland*. The *Grand Vizier*, who thought her a Prisoner, and who, as is thought, would have been glad something worse had befallen her, which is justify'd by the little Care he had taken of saving her timely, was in a Rage to see that she was endebted to *Ibrahim* for her Safety. Nevertheless, as he had too much Business upon

upon his Hands, to think then on that, his whole Thoughts were how to get off with his Forces and himself. But when this was done, he openly complain'd, that *Ibrahim* had abandoned the Posts he had confided to him, under Colour of giving Succours to Ladies, but in effect, to cloak his Cowardize. He further complain'd of some other Officers, that so he might not be thought to point at *Ibrahim*, out of any particular Resentment. Having prepared Peoples Minds by these Complaints, he sent for them to his Tent; and after having upbraided them with their Cowardize, he caus'd them to be strangled in the Presence of the Principal Commanders of the Army; *Ibrahim* only did he reserve for the last, and having made him go into a By-Apartment, he shew'd him the Two Letters before-mention'd; after which he

had the ſame Fate as the others had had.

His Execution ſurprized all the Officers that knew that the Pretext that had been us'd to put him to Death, was altogether unjuſt, ſince that he was not only brave of his Perſon, but that he had moreover, more Experience in point of War than the *Grand Vizier* himſelf. And indeed, this Miniſter imagining, that after ſo hardy a ſtroak, and done by his ſingle Authority, he had many meaſures to take, he ſent a Courier to the *Grand Signior*, to acquaint him with the Motives that had oblig'd him thereunto. This News being ſpread in the *Seraglio*, the Two *Sultana*'s were forthwith animated with different Sentiments. *Ibrahim*'s Siſter being extreamly afflicted, went to caſt her ſelf at the *Grand Signior*'s Feet, and demand Juſtice of him againſt the *Vizier*: And as for *Zelinda*, ſhe

ſhe did not think it became her to concern her ſelf in this Affair, that freed her from a Lover blacken'd with Infidelity. Theſe were her firſt Motions: but having quickly made room to others, more tender, ſhe look'd upon her ſelf as the Cauſe of *Ibrahim*'s Death, which caſt her into an Affliction much greater than that of the other *Sultana*.

Being thus poſſeſs'd a-new with Sentiments of Tenderneſs, it is eaſie to apprehend, that far from taking the *Vizier*'s part, who beſought her however, by a Letter, that ſhe would grant him her Protection with the *Grand Signior*, ſhe did him all ſort of ill Offices, but under-hand. Yet did ſhe not think it expedient to uſe *Ibrahim*'s Death as a Pretext, for fear he might accuſe her of revenging him, as a Party concern'd, which he might have juſtify'd by the Letter he had in his Hands: but having had

had the Cunning to get it again, ſhe no longer kept any meaſures, and accus'd him of being the Cauſe of all the ill ſucceſſes of the Army. Now as theſe ill ſucceſſes had caſt the *Ottoman* Empire into a great Conſternation, the *Grand Signior* did no longer look upon the *Grand Vizier* with ſo good an Eye: and then *Zelinda* coming alſo to the Charge, it was no difficult matter for her to obtain of him, that he ſhould be put to Death. The Order for that purpoſe was diſpatched out of hand; and for fear the *Grand Signior* ſhould revoke it, *Zelinda* ſent it to the *Mutes* by one of her Servants, with an Injunction to be himſelf preſent at the Execution.

Such an Order did extreamly ſurprize the *Grand Vizier*, who expected quite an other Treatment from the *Grand Signior*, whom he had done great Services in ſeveral Occaſions: but ſeeing that it was brought by a Confident of *Zelinda*'s, he plainly

ly perceiv'd, that he was going to dye, rather as a Victim of Love, than as a Victim of State, which was perform'd at that very instant; and *Zelinda* had the Cruelty to go see him struck dead, as he was, as if she had been afraid they had not executed the *Grand Signior*'s Orders.

THE END.

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